Sheriff’s Department can patrol Socorro ... for $2 million a year

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Clint Independent School District Board of Trustees voted Monday to approve Dr. Donna Smith as the new superintendent of Clint ISD. The former Torrillo ISD superintendent and Region 19’s School Finance Specialist said she wanted to get back to a district in which she could have an impact.

“The spring, due to my expertise in school business operations, I was able to ensure that the CISD was fiscally healthy, operationally sound and completed a bond issue,” said Smith, who has 24 years of Texas public school experience. “With this work produces an opportunity to be a resource to all the districts, I decided to apply for the position.”

In her new position, Smith will focus on educational issues and the teaching profession.

“I am pleased to have had the opportunity to present myself as a candidate for this position,” said Smith. “I am very excited about the opportunity to serve the students and district administration. Therefore, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to present myself as a candidate for this position.”

Board approves Smith as new Clint ISD superintendent

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

Vinton company agrees to reduce odors after mediation in Austin

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

The Town of Horizon City will hold a Citizens’ Awareness meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Ol Glaze Senior Center at 13906 Very Webb in Horizon City. Architects from Wright & Dalbin Architects will discuss a development near Desert Hills Elementary School on Eastlake Drive. This new development will feature mixed-use, mixed-income development near Desert Hills Elementary School on Eastlake Drive. This new development will feature mixed-use, mixed-income design and will incorporate such traditional neighborhood features as alleys, town squares and neighborhood parks. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for the Horizon City Police Dept. to explain a new Police Volunteers Program and solicit emergency management volunteers and citizens police academy volunteers. Community input is very important and solicited. Refreshments will be served. For information call John Dixon at 852-1046, ext. 201 or 202.

In other news

It looked like a load of vacuum cleaners but it smelled like pot to the canine detector. It looked like a load of vacuum cleaners but it smelled like pot to the canine detector.

Citizens be aware

The Village of Vinton went to Austin and came back with an “Agreed Order” that, it is hoped, will effectively address and curtail reported “nuisance odors” emitted by the operations of Valley By Products.

Mayor pro tem Jose Alarcon reported on the successful trip to state capital at the Aug. 27 meeting of the Vinton Village Council. The Agreed Order was hammered out in two days of meetings by Alarcon and Vinton Mayor Tony Castro with State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and representatives of Valley By Products, a Canutillo firm, and the company’s lawyers.

“The main objective was to bring back an agreement that would address the nuisance odors without compromising our community, as it interferes with education, use and enjoyment of our personal property,” Alarcon said in a two-page memo to council members. The memo also spelled out enforcement guidelines and timelines for “correcting and eliminating odors and other transporting issues during plant operation.”

Within 45 days of the effective date of the order, “all areas contaminated by wastewater spillage shall have been completely remedied ... in a manner that prevents contamination of ground water.”

Alternatives for reducing and controlling waste load entering the collection point would be spelled out within 60 days. “We found it to be most productive for the betterment of the community,” Alarcon said of the meetings held Aug. 20 and 21. However, Alarcon cautioned Vinton residents not to be complacent about the results of the meetings. “We still have the stench; we must continue to apply pressure,” Alarcon urged. “Don’t let up.”

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Loren Salas of the Canutillo ISD was named the 2002 Region 19 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Salas was selected from a group of eight elementary school finalists representing area school districts by a panel of judges. She rated high in the areas of personal experience, professional development, community involvement, philosophy of teaching, educational issues and the teaching profession.

Salas, a second grade bilingual teacher at Bill Childhood Elementary, has been teaching for nine years. For Salas, having a positive attitude every morning is her best teaching tool.

“The high expectations for myself make me have high expectations for my students,” said Salas. “I encourage them to try their best; I make them feel proud about themselves, their work, native language, heritage, and the privilege of being a citizen of this country.”

Salas will receive a cash award of $500, a plaque and serve as spokesperson for El Paso’s public education. She will also advance to compete for the Texas Teacher of the Year title, the highest honor that the state of Texas can bestow upon a teacher.

The Texas Teacher of The Year becomes a candidate for National Teacher of the Year honors. In addition, she will be invited to the annual Texas Teachers Forum sponsored by the Texas A&M University System and the Texas Education Agency to discuss issues related to the teaching profession.

The Region 19 Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by Southwestern Bell, is a platform to honor and showcase El Paso’s outstanding educators for their superior leadership and excellence in teaching.

Loren Salas of the Canutillo ISD was named the 2002 Region 19 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

See BRIEFS, Page 4

See VINTON, Page 7

See SOCORRO, Page 5

See THE CURIOSITY, Page 9

See BRIEFS, Page 4
For Sanity’s Sake  By Taprina Millburn

Shopping with kids

Someone said to me the other day that mothers absorb more stress than any other humans on the planet. She must have seen my children and me on the cereal aisle at the supermarket.

I often hear on the radio requests for people to be part of studies for new medications. “If you suffer from stress and anxiety you may be eligible to be a part of a university study in which you will receive free medication.” I suggest these people set up tables in grocery stores, similar to the ones you see for sausage and cookie samples, and they’d never have to spend money for radio advertisements again. Mothers shopping with their children would be their biggest clients.

A mother passed me on the juice aisle recently with a basketful of children — nowhere to put her groceries. The three kids in the basket each petitioned her to cart them down the cookie aisle. The two older children at her side swiped grape and strawberry juices off the shelves and slipped them into the laps of their siblings in the basket.

Mom caught them, however, and with the patience of a saint and white knuckles gripping around the basket handle, she raised her eyebrows and gave the kids the look that only mothers have mastered. It’s a look that other mothers recognize: I’m doing a really good job of holding it all in right now, but if you push me any further, kid, I’m going to explode like a can of shaken pop.

Then I had an idea. If I owned a market, I’d add a simulated grocery store for children, a place where moms who can’t find a babysitter while they shop can leave their children for a few minutes. This would be a kids’ heaven. They’d have their own baskets in which they could pile in as many empty boxes of tooth-rotting cereals, cookies and sodas as they wanted.

Meanwhile, a mom could spend as much time in the vegetable and fruit department as she needed without grimming children at her side telling her they won’t eat broccoli. Her purchases would be well-thought-out, based on the coupons she has in hand and not on what commercials her children have seen.

And like the mobile massage units you see in airports, there would be several chairs strategically placed throughout the store, especially before the meat department and the cereal aisle, where she will spend a good hunk of her grocery budget, and indeed before she reaches the checkout counter.

After she paid her bill, she could collect her happy, well-behaved children and be on her way. Sure, my idea’s a bit extravagant, but I guarantee you if they thought they’d get a massage out of the deal, it wouldn’t be long before dads would rearrange their schedules so they could take the kids grocery shopping while they’d get a massage out of the deal, it wouldn’t be long before dads would

A lesson in German

Showing what is given to children in Germany on the first day of school is Annette Loomis, Clint High School’s German teacher. She is holding a Schultute, a colorfully decorated cone filled with back-to-school goodies. Ms. Loomis presented one to each member of the first-ever AP German class at Clint High. Clint’s German program has nearly 160 students and has grown annually over the last four years. Shown holding his Schultute is Matt Spitsberg, flanked by Leslie Mendoza and Lisa Corral. Shown standing are Alba Esparza, Daria Napolskikh, Maddy Osborne, Korina Cardona, Loomis, Nancy Almanza, Denise Diaz and Juana Melendez.

September 11th remembered

It’s hard to believe a year has passed since the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. We will all remember where we were that morning. Whether you were near ground zero or in Castroville, Texas we all had the same fears racing through our heads.

What was happening? Who was behind it? Would my city be next? We prayed together, we stood together side by side, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans ready to do what was necessary to get through this crisis.

First responders — selfless — rushed to the scenes of tragedy. In towns across our country they manned their positions, ready just in case. At the President’s command center tough decisions were being made. Ground all aircraft within three hours, and yes, shoot down any aircraft that seemed to be threatening our country.

People across the country asked what they could do to help. Phone calls poured into New York, Washington and Pennsylvania with offers to help and send money. America was facing it’s ultimate modern day challenge and meeting it.

In the following days, we prayed together and committed ourselves to doing whatever it took to respond. The President focused like a laser beam on the effort to meet it.

Ground all aircraft within three hours, and yes, shoot down any aircraft that seemed to be threatening our country.

Our nation’s leaders told us to go on with our lives and we did. We resumed our regular schedules as best we could. The Pentagon has now been rebuilt. It is a great symbol of how we are bouncing back.

Here in Washington there are many of us who remain focused on the fundamentals that preserve our way of life. Strengthening our military, our intelligence operations our federal agencies that watch our ports of entry for killers trying to enter our country.

At this moment we continue in the effort to create the Department of Homeland Security to make sure all of our agencies...the FBI, Customs, the Border Patrol, the DEA...are all operating in synch.

In the following days, we prayed together and committed ourselves to doing whatever it took to respond.

The invitation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, I attended a ceremony on September 11th at the Pentagon to remember those who perished in the attack. The Pentagon has now been rebuilt. It is a great symbol of how we are bouncing back.

Just this past weekend the Congress was invited to lay a wreath at Ground Zero in New York City. As I looked across the site where the World Trade Centers used to be, it is remarkable to see the giant crater-like appearance of the area where the towers once stood. September 11th left a tremendous hole in all our hearts. But as we re-build at ground-zero, that hole is filled with strength, patriotism and determination.

I encourage everyone to remember the past so as to make us stronger in the future. We will never forget September 11. Today we should feel proud that this generation, like those past, is every bit as committed to doing whatever it takes to preserve freedom, justice and the American Way.
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant

The City of Socorro will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2002 in the City Council Chamber at Socorro City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., in regard to the use of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program funds approved by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). These funds are available to allow criminal justice agencies to enter into agreements with the Department of Justice to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the proposed use of these funds. This City encourages citizens to participate and make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views to Teresa Rodriguez, Interim City Clerk.

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity.

LEGAL

As per Article V, Sec. 5, Title 59, Texas Government Code, all lienholders have ten (10) days from the date to re-claim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2001, and will be sold at public auction for charges:

VIN: JNHD2052X2E02765, black, 1981 Nissan 280z, License 1174-74X.

SOCCORO SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids/proposals will be received at the District with the following products and services, as detailed above, and will be accepted at the following times.

Sealed bids/proposals will be received at the District with the following products and services, as detailed above, and will be accepted at the following times.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SERVICES RFO No. 199-002-0975 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2002 10 a.m.

Proposals will be accepted at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available for purchase, $5.00 payable to Socorro Independent School District, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928. Contact Dr. Bill Henley, 852-3523. Proposals will be opened at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 at 2:30 p.m. on September 24, 2002 at which time the identity of the respondents will be publicly read aloud.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY

ATTENTION: VETERANS: Mortgage 7.5% or higher?

You may be eligible for 6 to 6.5%.

No credit check, no app. fees. Call, 915-941-3660.

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Socorro
From Page 1

what the police department needs is a leader. “We need to hire a Chief of Police,” said Bowling.

The audience clapped and showed their agreement.

Many audience members expressed their dissatisfaction with Mayor Sanchez from their seats, causing her to ask the Sheriff’s officers in attendance to remove anyone speaking out of order if the meeting continued to be interrupted.

She later explained that everyone had the opportunity to sign up to speak at the meeting but that people shouting from the gallery had not done so.

In a later interview with the Courier, Sanchez clarified the nature of her concerns regarding the Socorro Police Department. She said the major problems include that the SPD has no criminal investigative department, no detectives, no internal affairs department, no internal training program guidelines, and a perceived lack of professionalism by the public.

“The city cannot afford to continually lose the Chief of Police,” Sanchez said. “We paid $65,000 when we lost (SPD Chief Joe Bob) Martinez. We lost $45,000 when Buryl Canuteson was forced out. Now we must conduct a search for another chief.”

Socorro paid Martinez a severance package in November of 2000 to avoid litigation after an upheaval in the department during which unsubstantiated allegations against Martinez were made.

Council issued a resolution at that time clearing Martinez of all allegations and commending his leadership and cooperation during the investigation. It was signed by then-Mayor Amado Padilla.

Canuteson, who was appointed to the post of chief thereafter, also resigned almost a year later, on Oct. 14, 2001 after he was accused by both citizens and his own officers of “poor performance.”

He accepted a severance package to do so. Then-Mayor Amado Padilla said that the severance was paid to avoid possible litigation.

The Courier has also learned that approximately $65,000 has been or will be paid to former SPD Lt. Eddie Orozco to settle a lawsuit he filed against the city in response to false accusations made against him by a former employee of the Marshal’s Office. The new Socorro charter has done away with the office of Marshal.

The city also had to return some $39,000 in federal grants after SPD office of Marshal.

The City of Socorro conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the City of Socorro by 10.11 percent on September 5, 2002.

The City of Socorro is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, TX 79927.

Town of Horizon City
Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO: Persons interested in applying for a place on the special election ballot for the Charter Commission. The purpose of the special election to be held on Nov. 5, 2002, is for qualified voters to vote on: Whether a New City Charter for the Town of Horizon City should be formulated. If the voter elects to have a New City Charter then a committee of fifteen (15) members must be elected from the municipality-at-large and shall draft a New City Charter. The New Charter will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Horizon City for their approval. Applications may be obtained at Town Hall, 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, Texas between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Filing deadline is Sept. 23, 2002 at 5 p.m.

TEN DONATION DRUMMER
AND MAKE SOME NEW ONES!

TO MARK CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

MEMBERS AND FAMILY ONLY

• BONFIRE & WIENER ROAST

COME ENJOY OLD FRIENDS

AND MAKE SOME NEW ONES!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21ST, 7 P.M.
13000 HORIZON BLVD.

West Texas County Courier
September 12, 2002
Page 5

View Page 5 online at http://www.westtexascountycourier.com

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

The City of Socorro conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the City of Socorro by 10.11 percent on September 5, 2002.

The City of Socorro is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, TX 79927.

The complete ordinance can be reviewed at Socorro Town Hall.

—Arleen Bead attended the Sept. 5 meeting and reported on events at that venue.
Fire Chief Lee Murati dies after years of service to San Elizario

SAN ELIZARIO — Lee Murati, 62, died August 29 but will long be remembered for his service to the San Elizario community in establishing and supporting a fire department.

“He is remembered for his role in the Edgewood vs. Kirby football rivalry,” said Assistant Fire Chief Roy Trevizo. “He worked hard. He worked right up to the day he died.”

Fire Chief Murati founded the San Elizario Volunteer Fire Department in 1978, nurturing it until 1989 when it became an El Paso County Rural Fire Prevention District. Then in 1994, he served as the statutor of El Paso County Emergency Services District #2.

Lee Murati was there working in the fire department all along. He represented the interest of San Elizario and other El Paso County fire departments at the state level in Austin, and established special projects and programs for the fire department.

He was happy to report recently that EPCESD #2 had earned a favorable status from the Insurance Services Office, Inc. in Austin, which gave San Elizario property owners a lower rate on their fire protection insurance. He gave credit to his crew and the support of the San Elizario community.

About 300 people attended Murati’s funeral Monday at the San Elizario Community Church. He is buried in the San Elizario Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and sons Michael Ryan and Roy Murati.

Bill Sybert, educator, dies

EL PASO COUNTY — Bill Sybert, educator and administrator, died Sept. 4 in East El Paso following a long illness. He was 72.

Plain-spoken and down-to-earth, Sybert came from humble beginnings, born on the Fourth of July in Earth, Texas, in a tar-paper house.

He earned his degree at the University of Texas at Austin after serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He became an assistant superintendent in New Mexico before coming to El Paso County in 1965. He served as an administrator at several campuses before becoming assistant superintendent of El Paso ISD.

He became superintendent of Socorro ISD in 1992 and retired in 1998.

In July of 2002, the Socorro district opened the Bill Sybert Elementary School in his honor at 11530 Edgemere, an event that family members say deeply honors the man who was buried in the San Elizario Cemetery.

He is remembered for his role in the Edgewood vs. Kirby lawsuit which challenged the way Texas funded education, earning a greater share of funding for poor school districts. He was lobbying the Texas Legislature in Austin in 1984 when he suffered the first of several heart attacks that would plague him over the remainder of his days.

After his retirement, Sybert wrote poetry and, for several years, a column entitled “Biting Back” for Home-steader News and the West TexasCourier Journal. He never forgot his roots and in his colorful writings he chronicled his early years in Muleshoe, Texas, where he picked cotton to help earn his keep as soon as he was old enough to work.

He is survived by his wife, Lucia; a brother, Jim Sybert; a son, Juan Sybert Coronado; a daughter, Marc Sybert Coronado; and two grandchildren. In accordance with his wishes, his family held a private cremation.

His family requested in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Socorro ISD’s Freedom Flag Memorial in his name. Mrs. Sybert said he loved Socorro ISD and he loved history, and would be proud to be a part of this historical project.

Donations to the Freedom Flag Memorial may be sent to Socorro ISD Communications Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928. Donations in his honor should be marked Freedom Flag - Bill Sybert Memorial.
Writer’s vacation takes him to the edge

By Don Flood

Yes, the very same van the Visigoths drove down in to sack Rome in 406 A.D., which is the year I graduated from high school.

You yourself might recall the Volkswagen Van, the kind where everybody piled in the back and ... well, you remember.

Anyway, these vans are all over Highway One! Since it’s clearly impossible for these ancient vehicles to still be on the road, the only logical explanation is that these images are, in reality, ghost vans.

One theory, which I was not able to confirm by press time, is that these ghost vans are driven by dead hipsters (though it’s entirely possible many do not realize or accept that they are dead, this being California, where the driving privileges of the life-challenged are more vigorously defended than in most states).

My guess is these expired hippies were guilty of spreading bad karma during their lifetime, and now they’re doomed to spend eternity driving up and down California’s Highway One in search of a good radio station.

Actually, I’m exaggerating a little for comic effect because, really, there’s a radio station here for every kind of listener, unless of course you prefer hearing English.

I don’t want to unduly arouse Pat Buchanan and others, but it’s entirely possible California is now the northernmost province of Mexico.

The postcards show Big Sur goddesses in varying states of undress, similar to how the ancient Greeks depicted their goddesses.

Appearing with titles such as “Calling the Spirit” and “A Golden Moment,” these modern goddesses seem to be swept away by the sheer wonder of communing with nature — though I realize those less high-minded than myself might say, “Wow, check out these babes!”

But, sadly, these people would be missing the point. I’m not sure what the point is, but if they feel strongly enough about it to pose half naked on postcards then the least I can do is keep an open mind.

Also like the ancient Greeks, the Big Surians (Big Surists?) continue to employ a mode of transportation not seen in hundreds of years — the Volkswagen Van.

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas

GOT A LIFE by Torri Davis

THE SPATS by Jeff Pickering

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

Social Security

From Page 8

Vinton

From Page 1

them off the hook. I guarantee we will continue to push. We have to touch citizens. This needs to be a team ef- fort — by the community, not just the Village Council.

Some results may already be evi-
dent. Castro said that, while the smell was there, it wasn’t as frequent. He also reported on talking about this to Natalie Jerome, who is with Valley By Products. According to Castro, she responded by saying that she was glad to hear it and that they (the company) was putting in new equipment.

Underscoring the need for action were the comments by two who at tended the meeting.

Speaking through an interpreter, Rosario Hernandez, a cafeteria worker at Childress Elementary, said they had to turn off the air condition ers and keep the doors and windows closed to keep out the smell. “I have seen children Sick.”

Veronica Alvarez, the mother of two children at Childress, spoke of children with headaches and seeing them throw up. “It affects their work.”

Valley By Products declined re peated requests for an interview with the Courier for comment on the odor order.

In other action:

• Council approved the request for a special permit for Allied Paving Co. for appropri ately a mile of paving, curbing and gutter work along Steel Drive, Iron Drive and Douglas Roads. They “have a good work history — solid ex peri ence,” Mesa said.

Social Security

From Page 8

individuals.

Does Social Security monitor an individual’s account once a representative payee has been appointed? Yes, a representative payee will receive an annual questionnaire asking individu als or organizations to account for benefits received during the calendar year or benefit period prescribed by social security. What leads Social Security to appoint a Representative Payee? Most of the time, relatives will alert us as to the need to appoint someone to administer the benefits. Many times we receive re ports from third parties such as Adult Protective Services, social workers or neighbors that have knowledge of a person(s) taking advantage of an individual’s inability to handle their benefits. Surprisingly enough, there are instances when the investigation reveals that an individual’s own fam ily uses an individual’s social security benefits for their own personal gain.

Does that mean that because a representative payee is appointed that there will not be any problems? There are many situations that social secu rity investigates because the representa tive payee was reporting benefits to the social security funds. In these situations, social security will file a complete accounting from the appointed representative payee. Social Security’s intent is that all ben efits must be used in the individual’s best interest for all current needs such as food, shelter, medical care, personal needs and if all current needs are met then a payee can consider saving part of the benefits for future needs. More than six million people who get monthly Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits need this kind of help.
Social Security: Q & A  By Ray Vigil

What does Social Security do when a recipient can no longer handle their own financial affairs?

Social Security has a program that can assist when an individual is no longer able to handle their social security and supplemental security benefits. When people need help managing their benefits, Social Security — after a careful investigation — appoints a relative, friend or other interested party to serve as the beneficiary’s “representative payee.” This means the person’s benefits are then paid to the payee on the beneficiary’s behalf. It is not necessary to go before any court unless you are concerned about finances other than social security. Although a power of attorney may be a convenient way to pay bills and handle some legal matters, Social Security does not recognize it for managing a beneficiary’s funds.

Before Social Security can appoint a representative on behalf of an individual, we must have a statement from the attending physician who confirms whether an individual is or is not able to handle their finances. In agreeing to serve as a representative payee, you’re taken on an important responsibility — one that can make a positive difference in the beneficiary’s life and your as well.

The Representative Payee program is a requirement for children who are under age 18. Minor children cannot receive their social security or supplemental security benefits directly until they attain age 18. There are some situations that require that a representative payee remain in force past the 18th birthday. If a child is under a disability that keeps them from being able to handle their finances, they too will be required to receive their benefits through a representative payee.

The second most common situation in which an individual requires a representative payee is when they suffer from a physical or mental condition which prevents them from handling their own benefits. If an individual is determined to be in need of a representative payee, Social Security looks to wards family first. If the person is married, the spouse is in a better position to assume the role of a representative. Many times both husband and wife are unable to care for their own finances; in this case we will appoint one of the children.

We will also consider a non-rela tive or an organization that serves as representative payee for several reasons.