



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Troubled river

The Rio Grande River has again been named one of the nation's most endangered rivers by American Rivers, a national conservation group. The nearly 2,000-mile-long river, which runs from Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico, was listed as the fifth-most endangered river in the nation. This is the fourth time the river has made this list since 1995. American Rivers said the Rio Grande is threatened because of the prospect of Albuquerque, N.M. and Brownsville, Texas, taking water from it, and because federal dam operators have decided to deliver irrigation water despite drying up stretches of the river each year. Municipal and agricultural demands use nearly 95 percent of the river's average annual flow, and in four of the past five summers the Rio Grande has dried up. "For two summers in a row, the Rio Grande has failed to reach the sea," said Rebecca R. Wodder, president of American Rivers. "If the cities succeed in securing more river water and federal agencies stick with status-quo irrigation deliveries, the Rio Grande may have seen the last of the Gulf of Mexico." Less than a tenth of the water from the Rio Grande's upper watersheds survives below El Paso, said Steve Harris, director of the Albuquerque-based Rio Grande Restoration. He said the bad news is that development will soon take the last 10 percent.

### Drug tank

It was a new twist on hauling illegal drugs — U.S. Border Patrol agents in Ft. Hancock found 3,320 pounds of marijuana concealed in a ammonium nitrate fertilizer tank being towed by a white Chevy truck early Friday morning. Agents spotted the vehicle driving in a notorious drug-smuggling area near the Ft. Hancock port of entry. As the truck turned onto Texas Hwy 20, agents conducted a traffic stop, at which time a canine search concluded with a hit on the tank. A subsequent x-ray revealed apparent bundles inside the tank. Because of the volatility of the gas, the tank was taken to an industrial contractor in El Paso to safely remove the contents. At about 3 p.m. the tank was opened to reveal numerous cellophane bundles. The driver, identified as a 52-year-old Mexican national, was arrested.

### In other news

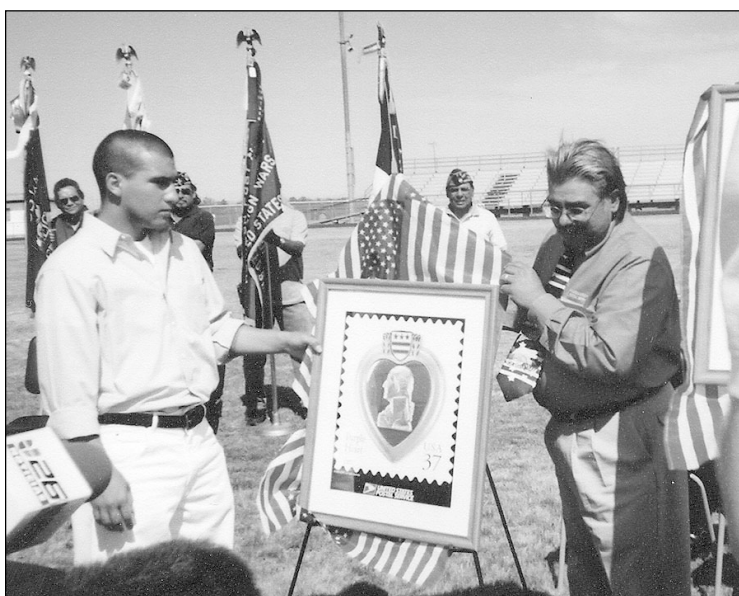
Bienestar Familiar is seeking vendors for its Arts and Crafts Bazaar to be held Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at El Mercadito, 10189 Socorro Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Booths are \$20. Call 859-4230. Bienestar Familiar is a non-profit organization that provides free wellness services and micro-enterprise training to members of the community.

■ Youth ages 11 to 19 are invited to  
**See BRIEFS, Page 5**

*Sending children to college educates parents — it teaches them how to do without a lot of things.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Local heroes honored during Purple Heart stamp unveiling



— Photos Courtesy of Eva Avila

**EMBLEM OF SACRIFICE — Manny Avila, left, a son of the Clint community, helped Clint Postmaster Fernando Sepulveda unveil the Purple Heart commemorative postage stamp, honoring all those like Avila who have suffered deeply on behalf of their nation.**

CLINT — It began at 9 a.m. Saturday morning with a gentle breeze blowing, not yet hot. Banners thanking the Purple Heart recipients had been placed on the fence at the entrance to the football field.

One banner said "Thank you, Pete," with an old photo of a young soldier placed close by, later identified as Pete Hernandez who is now over 70 years old.

The drone of the engine of a small plane could be heard as it circled 4,000 feet overhead as Bob Kern, a member of the El Paso Skydivers Club based in the Santa Teresa airport, took the microphone and addressed the 300 people assembled. He told them to watch for a puff of smoke to be emitted from the plane and as the crowd watched, three divers

dropped from the aircraft, drifting for what seemed like forever before landing on the grassy field.

One of them carried the American flag, another the POW/MIA flag with its black and white design waving in the breeze. The third diver, a soldier recently returned from the armed conflict in Iraq, released smoke from a canister for an awe-inspiring effect.

The divers all hit their marks, to the pleasure of the crowd, and as they were applauded they gathered their chutes, disappeared into a waiting van and were gone.

A well-disciplined NJROTC rifle drill team from San Elizario High School, directed by Col. Gray and Chief Jaquez, performed with precision, followed by

**See HEROES, Page 4**



**COLORFUL TREATMENT — Dental assistant Lucy Ortega was on duty Tuesday in Socorro offering dental care for county children. The mobile facility has two complete, though small, treatment areas complete with chair and x-ray equipment.**

## Full-service dental treatment rolls out to county children

*Courier Staff Reports*

EL PASO COUNTY — Getting their teeth worked on may not be high on a child's list of summer fun but for many El Paso County parents it is a dream come true.

The Children's Summer Dental Program van was at the Rio Vista Center in Socorro this week offering the kind of dental care to which many have never had access.

Sponsored by the El Paso Community Foundation, the Walter H. Hightower Foundation, the El Paso City/County Health Dept., the Dept. of Health and Human Services Border Affairs and the Texas Department of Health Dental Services, the full service mobile dental office provides everything from exams, x-rays and cleanings to fillings, extraction and sealants.

Lucy Ortega, a dental assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez DDS, was manning the operation on Tuesday morning in Socorro. She said that most children are treated in a series of four visits — the first for exams, the second for cleanings, the third for treatments as needed and the fourth for wrap-up exam. She said 23 exams were conducted on Monday, with a comparable number scheduled for Tuesday.

Ages treated range from one to 21, and CHIP and Medicaid are accepted, or up to \$10 per child for a full range of treatments. Exact costs per patient can vary.

The colorful vehicle, trimmed in rainbow colors, houses all the necessary equipment including colorful dental chairs.

The program will continue in the

**See DENTAL, Page 4**

## Town of Clint to receive \$60,000 grant after sponsoring clean-up events

AUSTIN — Clint, Texas is among the nine Texas communities to be rewarded for their outstanding grassroots environmental efforts. Clint, Van Alstyne, Childress, Athens, Dickinson, Lake Jackson, Denton, Grand Prairie and Houston will receive the Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA) from Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB).

Each of the nine winners will receive a share of a \$1 million landscaping grant provided by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Ranging in population from 980 in Clint to almost two million in Houston, the nine winning communities were chosen for their achievements in community leadership, litter prevention, public awareness, education, solid waste management, recycling, illegal dumping enforcement, and beautification. Winners also

demonstrated strong community partnerships and volunteer efforts in their programs throughout the last year.

"These nine winning communities reflect the true Texas Spirit," said Donna Albus, Keep Texas Beautiful President. "They are an inspiration to us all. We are so appreciative of the pride in their community that they exemplify through their efforts in a multitude of events."

The Governor's Community Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding communities for 34 consecutive years, with 18 years of funding from the Texas Department of Transportation. Communities with the best grassroots environmental programs in the state apply to compete in nine population categories for a share of landscaping prize money. Every city in Texas may apply for the GCAA regardless of size. The smallest award is

\$60,000 for populations under 1,000; the largest is \$265,000 for populations greater than a quarter of a million.

"Knowing that there is absolutely nothing as economically beneficial to a community as to be clean and pretty, they will receive their just rewards many times over," said Albus. "There is no way to put a dollar figure on that return. The ripple effect that crosses the state through their good works is remarkable. We salute this great achievement of being the best of the best."

The Governor's Community Achievement Awards will be formally presented to the winners during the 36th Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference in Dallas July 8-11 in Dallas.

For more information on the GCAA and other KTB programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit the website at [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org).



# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Visionary difficulty

I guess I'm not a visionary

There they sit, row upon row of empty little glass eye-shapes, staring blankly into space, waiting for some human to put life and color behind their frames.

Some are a little bigger, some a little smaller, but none of them appear all that much different from the ones I already have. I can't see where the "designers" have come up all that many options.

I like my glasses. I paid extra money a few years ago, a considerable investment, to get ones I figured I'd like for many years, maybe decades.

I don't want new frames. I just want new lenses.

My eyes have "changed" over the last couple of years, a nice way my eye doctor has of saying "aged."

I have two pairs of glasses, a necessary expense. I learned this lesson the hard way after finding myself groping sightlessly through my daily chores after I accidentally stepped on my single pair.

It's been a few years since I had my prescription changed. The exam doesn't cost but a few bucks more but I am unprepared for the sticker shock awaiting me next door at the "Mega Major Vision Center" (not their real name).

"Vision" is a good word for what they do because only a true take-their-shirts financial visionary could possibly come up with the variety of choices, charges and options presented by Miss Nice behind the counter.

I tell her basically what I want and hand her one pair of my old frames.

"Well, we can meet your needs

with the Super-de-duper-deluxe-carbonated-extricated-multiplied lens with the complicated-marinated feature combo. Or you can have the Dull ones," she says.

I compare the prices, both of which are making my vision blur even worse. There's not a great deal of difference. I don't notice that my companion has become equally short of breath, nor that he slips away with cell phone in hand, speed-dialing a wholesale competitor.

Since the Dull ones won't darken in the sun, I tell her I'll take the Super-de-duper version. But she says the sun-darkening feature isn't included in the Super-de-dupers and it will cost me another \$25.

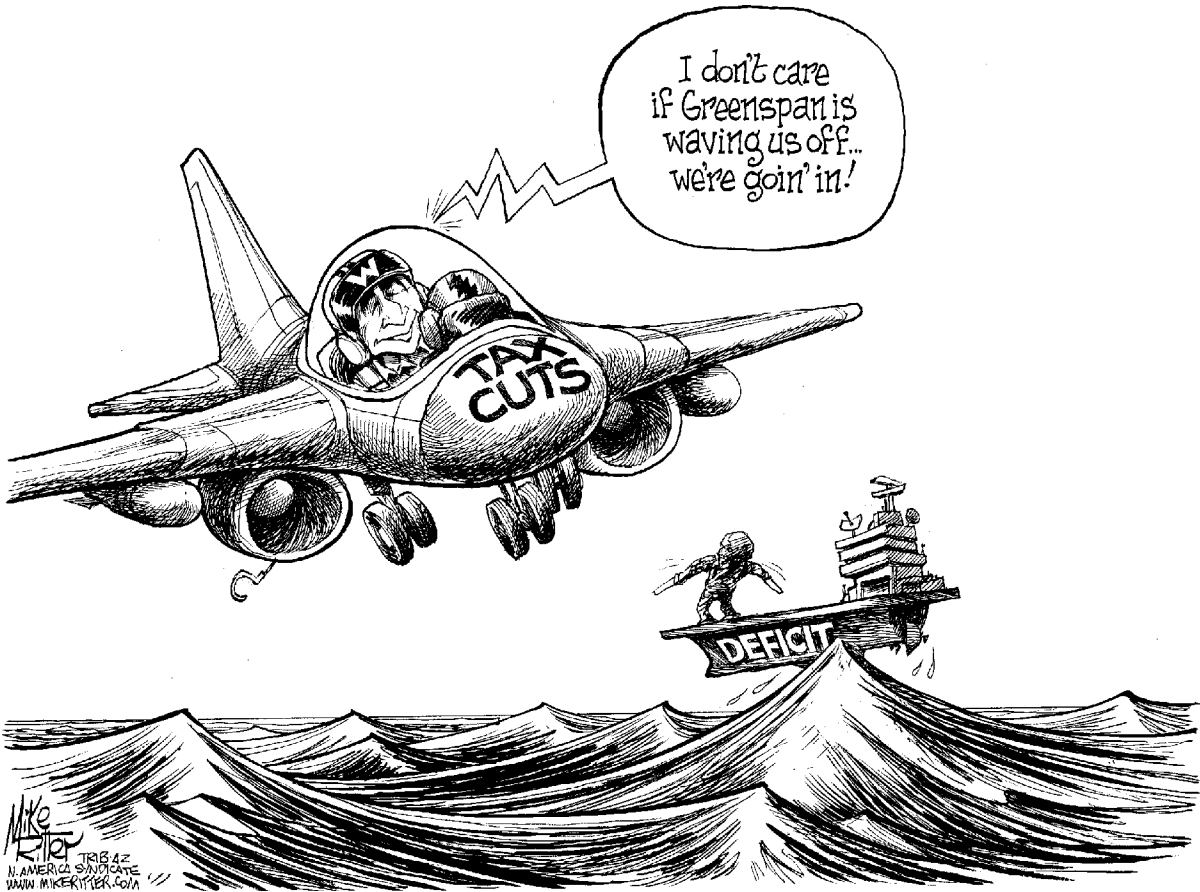
My head is spinning and I just want to go home. So I tell her OK and proceed to close the transaction when my companion pulls me aside. He's found the Super-de-duper version somewhere else for about \$100 less. So I apologize to Miss Nice, I tell her I'll call her back if this other place doesn't work out, and retrieve my old frames.

I have no idea exactly how undesirable these frames are going to seem before this ordeal is over. I have no inkling that it is bland, dull, self-defeating and short-sighted — pardon the expression — to keep your old frames.

In our throw-away society, I shouldn't be surprised that I am about to enter the world of "Buy Our New Designer Frames Or Else."

You see, apparently the people who work in the "lab" where new frames are created — spelled with a capital

See VISION, Page 3



30 Years

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## Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

### Summit to address water issues

El Paso's battle against this seemingly endless drought is the topic of the upcoming Water Summit I am hosting on June 7-8. The theme is the "Tale of Two Droughts" to be discussed by a panel of national experts I've invited to assess short-term and long-term solutions to our current water problems.

As a public service Time Warner Television Ch. 7 will televise the Summit in two parts, beginning at 9 p.m. on Saturday and 9 p.m. on Sunday.

The Summit will focus on the obvious drought we are experiencing along with the simultaneous "drought" in funding for drought mitigation and drought management. Experts in water resource management, desalinization, conservation, and private-sector investment will discuss topics such as drought climatology, interstate and international cooperation in drought management, and future regional planning and sustainability.

In April, all members of Congress send letters to the Appropriations Committee leaders requesting money for projects in their communities. For fiscal year 2004, many of my requests focus on providing an adequate and clean water supply for El Paso.

The Hueco Bolson ground water beneath central and east El Paso is extremely important to providing water for our growing population. The Hueco Bolson, which extends beneath the international border, supplies most fresh water for El Paso and Juárez. These fresh water zones in the bolson could be exhausted by the year 2025. The Mexican portion may run out of fresh water much sooner. To preserve an adequate supply of clean water, El Paso, Las Cruces, and Juárez recently joined together to develop a regional water and wastewater plan to manage the region's long-term needs. I requested \$2 million to develop this regional water plan along with Las Cruces and Juárez.

While the Hueco Bolson does sup-

ply fresh water, it also contains a large amount of brackish water which, when desalinated, will be extremely valuable to our community. El Paso Water Utilities and Fort Bliss are developing a desalinization plant to treat the brackish water for municipal uses. I requested \$7 million to continue the project this year, following on to \$18 million in appropriations I helped secure over the past two years to develop this continuing project.

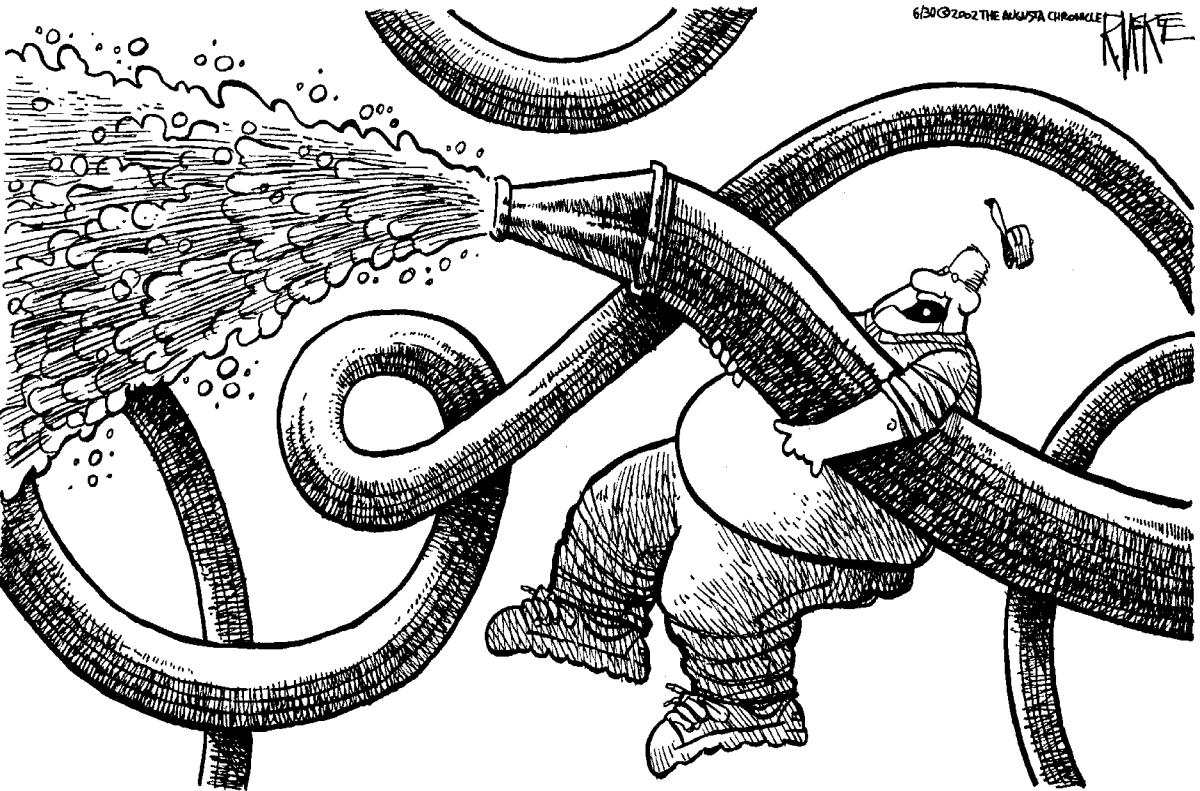
Reclaimed water is also necessary to relieve El Paso's dependence on our dwindling fresh water resources. The Haskell Street Wastewater Reclamation Project provides reclaimed water to parks, schools, cemeteries, and industrial users located in the central part of the city. I helped obtain nearly \$3 million over the last three years for continued funding of this project, which will allow additional parks and schools to use reclaimed water.

The Transboundary Water Institute (TWI) at UTEP is another critical

See REYES, Page 4



'NO, HONEY...NOT ALL BAD THINGS ARE CAUSED BY TERRORISTS...'



"THEY SAID I COULD WATER MY LAWN ANY DAY AS LONG AS I USED A SINGLE GARDEN HOSE... THEY DIDN'T SAY HOW BIG IT HAD TO BE!..."

## Recognizing the importance of Social Security

By Ray Vigil

I cannot help but think back when I first graduated from high school and started my search for a job. What did I know about my social security card? I knew I had obtained my social security card when I was about 15 years old. I knew it consisted of nine numbers which had been assigned to me and I understood that I was the only person in possession of that number.

No one ever told what the number was actually for. Nor did I take the time to find out for myself. Even when I first start working, I knew that "FICA" was deducted from my wages but I never understood the purpose. Perhaps one of the reasons was due to the public recognizing social security as a program for the elderly.

Many changes have taken place since. For one, children are now being assigned a social security number at the time of their birth. Second, social security has initiated a campaign to educate families and make them more aware of the social security programs. Also, more and more social security numbers are the basis for stolen identities.

College graduates and high school seniors will soon be seeking temporary or permanent employment. They

need to recognize the importance of their social security card. For one, employers are restricted from accepting a laminated card or a metal one. Before you start searching for a job, take the time to examine your social security card. If you suspect that it might not be acceptable, visit your social security office. Make certain that you have proper identification with you at the time you visit the office. Your card is not an ID card, keep your card in a safe place and carry it with you if you are applying for a job or opening a bank account. Do not put your social security number on your checks. Identity theft has become very popular in the recent years. You do not want anyone establishing credit under your social security number or using your number for any reason.

Once you start working and when you receive your first check, you will notice that your employer withheld 6.2 percent in social security taxes and 1.45 percent in Medicare taxes. Did you have a choice? No, employers are mandated to make these adjustments from your checks. They are also required to match your contributions. Just what are you getting for the contributions you are paying?

Your contributions are going towards insurance protection you are actually buying while working. You are paying into a retirement, disability, survivors and medical program. Social Security is not just a retirement program. There are at least 4,098,910 people under age 30 getting social security benefits. Social Security is an insurance program for everyone.

Something as simple as applying for student financial aide could become very complicated if the information you enter on your application does not match your social security record. Your application process will be delayed and if there is problem such as someone else using your social security number. Make certain that you enter the correct information on all application forms. It is recommended that you check your social security record at least every two years to ascertain someone else is not using your number.

For more information visit your local social security office, see [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

## For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

### Out of the tornado closet

Tornadoes are no joking matter. My home state of Oklahoma has been hit too many times in the past four years to take such devastation lightly.

But after spending two days under severe tornado warnings, I can breathe a little easier now — mostly because we've emerged from our tornado closet, a tiny space under our stairwell.

When the kids learned of the warnings they began to help pull out of the closet boxes of pictures, camping gear, our folding chairs and card tables, only to fill the closet up again with their stuffed animals, books, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, bicycle helmets, catcher's mask and chest protector, flashlights, snacks, radio — everything you'd need for a night under the stairs.

"But there's no room for mom and dad," I said.

Because having parents weather a storm with you is probably a smart thing to do, they scooted things over for us.

We were prepared, but, thankfully, never had to really use the closet for shelter. Ours was more of a practice run.

That's not so for many of my state's residents. I know my family is among the lucky.

But I haven't always been so serious about tornadoes.

It wasn't until neighbors from Arizona moved close to us and experienced their first tornado warning four years ago that I realized maybe we too should not assume storms will

miss us. The tornado that night was many miles away, but our neighbors were ready to head to a storm shelter early. When they knocked on our door and saw that we were in our pajamas and heading to bed, our nonchalant reaction unnerved them more than the tornado.

"Are you guys crazy?" they asked.

Out of neighborly hospitality, we dressed and headed to the shelter with them. Our immediate area wasn't hit, but it was the year an F5 storm plowed through Oklahoma and many people not far from us lost their homes, businesses and lives.

I'm thankful for my neighbors who taught me to be more aware; neighbors who, by the way, have since moved the heck out of our state. They still follow our weather, though, and e-mail me to ask if we took precautions.

Their preparedness taught me that it's not an intelligent thing to sit out on the back porch as tornadoes whip across our state, probably not a good idea to tune out the weather guy — at least have on the radio and television news on nights that tornadoes are imminent. And to put bicycle helmets on my kids and send them to the tornado closet even if the storm is miles and miles away.

Like all the tornado drills we did in elementary school, you never know when your practice run will end up being the real thing.

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## Vision

From Page 2

L and spoken only in hushed tones — are so restricted in their mental flexibility that unless their orders are received with brand-spanking-new, fresh-off-the-rack, currently-in-stock frames attached, they go into some kind of brain arrest that has only one cure.

Money.

For an extra handling fee of \$20 or so, the evil spell is broken and they can function again.

By maintaining my wretched old frames, I was risking serious and lasting damage to some poor, wretched lab tech working who knows where, maybe underground in a dank tunnel.

Besides, do I really want to look

like I am wearing *old* frames?

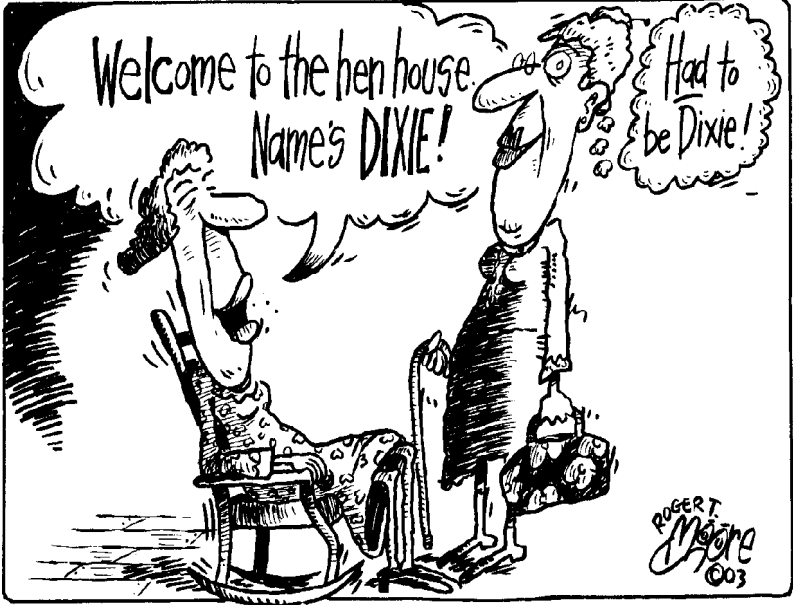
Well, apparently I care as little about the poor lab tech as I do about my fashion sensibilities, so after a little hard-core negotiation my companion swings a major deal with the wholesale competitor in which we surrender only our car and home but get to keep most of the kids. I go home to wait for the magical summons that my glasses are ready.

I got that call several days later, but oddly enough it wasn't from the place where I'd finally signed over my livelihood for the next several years. It was from the Mega Major Vision Center where I'd canceled my order and taken away my frames. The nice voice on the end of the line informed me that my glasses were ready to be picked up.

I wondered what kind of designer frames they picked out for me.

Now that's visionary.

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore June 3, 1908, The Confederate Woman's Home opens near Austin to care for widows of Confederate soldiers.



# Write stuff

**Dear Editor:**

In defense of freedom of the press and the right of reply I would like to respond to (Socorro) Alderwoman Gloria Rodriguez.

The press, whether it is this newspaper or any other, has the obligation to report the story as it is, upon factual evidence. What I see as the problem is that Mrs. Rodriguez’s actions have spoken and she does not like their consequences. That is not my problem nor is it of the press.

Mrs. Rodriguez needs to realize that her actions during the meetings are being noted and that I, as the Mayor, only recommend items, I do not vote.

I have made it well known that we are here to serve the Socorro community and not ourselves. Pettiness will get us nowhere and items that Mrs. Rodriguez wants to discuss during our meetings do nothing but keep the city from progressing.

As I have said in the past, I am happy to provide information to council members but it is not my job to spoonfeed information to anyone.

I was elected to do a job and that is what I am going to do. I will always find ways to move forward to provide much-needed projects for the city. Time is of the essence for Socorro and council members need to realize that they do more harm than good when we are not informed, positive and objective on issues.

Closed mouths and open minds is what the city is in dire need of.

Being a public servant is more than going into the office and drinking coffee, waiting to hear the daily gossip and circulating it. It is unfortunate that truth takes longer than gossip. First it must be ridiculed, then it must be opposed, and finally, after the long debate, it becomes self-evident. By the time it reaches that point it is too late to act on and the election has come again.

Think about it and you will see that this is true.

As always, I welcome all constituents to come down and discuss questions, comments and concerns.

**Irma Sanchez**  
Mayor, City of Socorro

## Dental

From Page 1

county through the summer and general information is available at 543-3580.

- Rio Vista Community Center: June 2-27
- Contact The Community Center Director Juan Avila, 860-8615
- Sparks Community Center: July 7-25

Contact the Community Center Director Sylvia Holguin, 852-9542

- East Montana Vista Community Center: Aug. 4-29
- Contact The Center Director Ray Borrego, 857-1567
- Far West El Paso County at Canutillo Elementary: June 9-27

Texas Department of Health will provide services to Migrant children. Contact Canutillo Migrant Program Coordinator Lissette Hidalgo, 877-7439.

## Heroes

From Page 1

members of the Benavides-Patterson 82nd Airborne Association presenting the colors before the hushed crowd.

After an invocation by Dr. Reverend Eric Smith, a rock-steady second grader, Reiley Armstrong, delivered a profound rendition of the National Anthem. The daughter of David and Ceci Armstrong, Reiley gestured to the crowd to join her in the final bars of the rousing song. Her performance was followed by five students from Surratt Wee Delivery presenting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Andrea Alexis Prado, a Clint High graduate, then read an essay titled “Why I Am Proud of America” which she wrote when she was 17.

Ret. Sgt. Major Marshall Anders reviewed the history of the Purple Heart, mentioning that the only way to earn this medal is to be wounded or killed in action.

Clint Postmaster Fernando Sepulveda thanked the Clint School District for the use of the football field, then said: “Many of you never received a proper welcome upon your return from overseas. And I hope that today we can make up for those shortcomings.” He then introduced honored guest Manny Avila, a 2000 graduate of Clint High School who was wounded March 27 in Iraq.

State Rep. Chente Quintanilla presented another honored guest, Ruben Estrella-Soto Sr., in honor of

his son Ruben Jr. who died in service to his country in the recent Iraq war. Quintanilla also thanked all the Purple Heart Recipients for their sacrifices.

Gilbert Cardenas, representing Congressman Silvestre Reyes, and Clint Mayor pro tem Ed Prado also addressed the crowd. Guest speaker was Manny Rivas, past state commander, VFW of Texas.

Sepulveda then presided over the unveiling of the U.S. Post Office stamp commemorating the Purple Heart and all it stands for, assisted by Estrella-Soto Sr. and Avila.

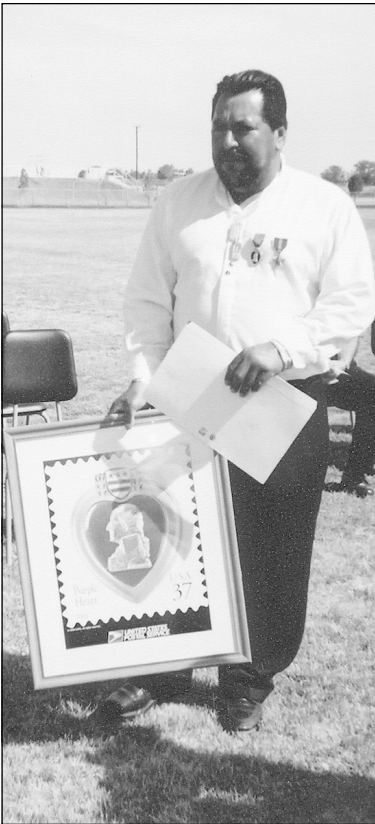
Both men received framed 20x16-inch posters of the stamp.

Sepulveda then named five local soldiers who had fallen in battle: Raul Candelaria, killed in action in Vietnam; Manuel Rodriguez, killed in action in Vietnam; Robert Alvarez, killed in action in Vietnam; Fernie Gutierrez, killed in action in Vietnam; and Ruben Estrella-Soto Jr., killed in the Iraq war. Their family members accepted teddy bears in their honor.

There were 34 other Purple Heart recipients attending the event who were also honored, many with surprise gifts from family members or friends. Avila was presented flowers, a plaque and hugs from his mother.

Some of their wounds, such as missing limbs, were plain to be seen. Others carried their wounds internally, either in non-visible health damage or emotional scars. For these men, the high price of freedom is still being paid.

In closing, Sepulveda thanked the Pacheco family and Irma Zepeda for



**FATHER OF A FALLEN HERO — Ruben Estrella-Soto Sr. represented the memory of the son who bore his name, Ruben Estrella-Soto Jr., who was killed in the Iraq war.**

their care package projects and the Eveler family for sending rosaries to the troops in Iraq.

The crowd enjoyed performances by the Surratt fifth grade performing “You Are the Wind Beneath My Wings,” and Ismael Aguayo, a 2003 CHS graduate, singing “Eres Todo.”

Another special touch included a drive-through by black-clad bikers carrying the American flag and the POW/MIA flag — all employees of the U.S. Postal Service.

## Clint Independent School District Public Notice

The Clint ISD announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided at the sites listed. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred *only* to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Dept. of Human Services.

Free lunch is available to eligible participants from one year to 18 years of age. Participants with a handicap may be 20 years of age. Adults may purchase a meal for \$2.50.

The following sites will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., starting June 2, 2003 through July 2, 2003:

- **Surratt Elementary**  
12675 Alameda, Clint, TX
- **Frank Macias Elementary**  
12595 Darrington, Horizon City, TX
- **Desert Hills Elementary**  
300 Eastlake Dr., Horizon City, TX
- **Horizon Middle School** (Times Pending)  
14651 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX
- **Montana Vista Elementary**  
3550 Mark Jason, El Paso, TX
- **Red Sands Elementary**  
4250 O’Shea, El Paso, TX

WTCC: 06/05/03

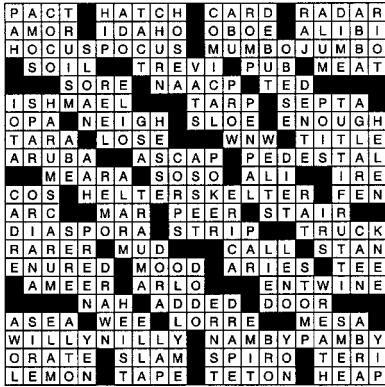
## Reyes

From Page 2

resource for sustainable water management in our community. TWI focuses on international cooperation on water issues, and its mission is to provide communities with the technical and human resources needed to develop transnational solutions to water issues. Economic opportunities made possible by U.S. — Mexico border commerce resulted in rapidly growing cities in the region, which are quickly depleting the aquifers that are their primary sources of water. Competition for water has become a source of conflict between municipal users and agricultural users, between urban areas and rural areas, between states, and between nations. I am pushing for \$1.5 million to ensure that TWI will have the resources to address these transnational issues.

All of these topics are important to El Paso and surrounding communities. No one knows better than our residents, who have weathered this drought, and increasing water restrictions, the necessity of a reliable and adequate water supply.

The Water Summit will address all these issues.





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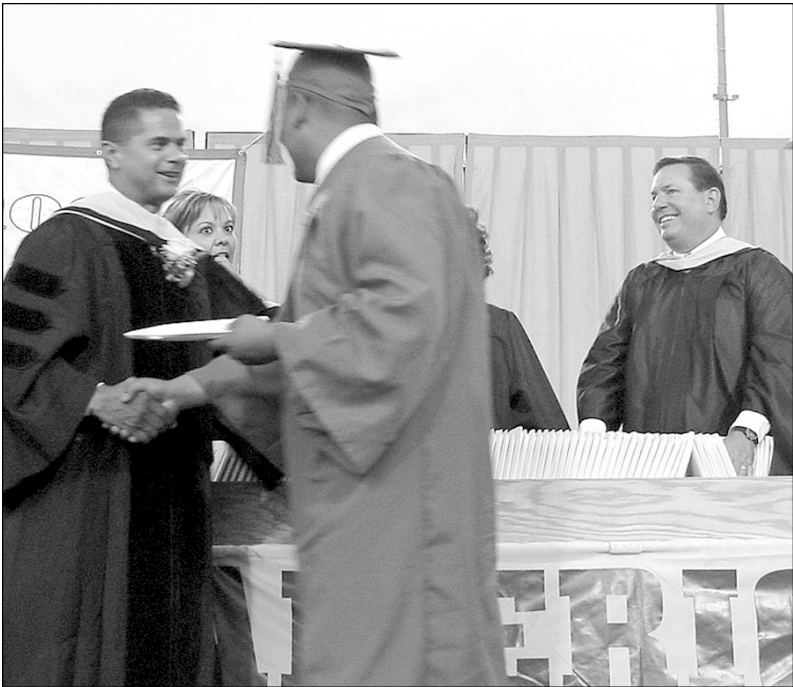
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## San Elizario to graduate 175 this week



**SAN ELIZARIO** — There are 175 seniors expected to graduate from San Elizario High School on June 4, 2003 at an 8 p.m. ceremony at San Elizario High School Stadium. The top five seniors for the 2002-2003 school year are all projected to attend college next fall, according to lead counselor Dicky Garza. Garza said that the total academic and military scholarship money has reached close to \$900,000. The top five are: 1. Elvia Jasso, St. Edwards University; 2. Eunice Rascon, UTEP; 3. Obed Lira, Boston University; 4. Irving Alvidrez, UTEP; and 5. Valerie Barraza, UTEP.



**DOING THE HONORS** — Socorro ISD's new superintendent, Dr. Robert Duron, passed out diplomas to District graduates.

## San Elizario ISD introduces new trustee

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

**SANELIZARIO** — Terry Alarcón was selected to replace Lorenza Zuniga as a member of the San Elizario Independent School District, Place 6, during a special board meeting on Monday, June 2.

"I recognize the position as an important opportunity to shape the future direction of education and our future leaders here in the San Elizario District," Alarcón said. "I would like to share the responsibility of improving school performance, which begins with the elected board of trustees that govern the public school district."

"I understand the board sets the policy direction for schools and are responsible for holding the superintendent and teaching staff accountable for performance and I would like to be involved in determining the success of our schools and children for years to come. Education and the necessary investment in our children is my top priority. No child should

be left behind if we create an educational environment where the individual needs of each student are identified and addressed and I would want to be a part in the creation of this educational environment."

Alarcón brings 20 years of experience in the United States Army to the district and served as a substitute teacher in San Elizario from 1981 to 1982. In 1994, she received her Italian Language Certification and in 1998 received her Turkish Language Certification. She holds three business certifications from the United States Army in the areas of administration, personnel, and advanced leadership and management.

"My definition of leadership is to lead by example and with confidence," she said. "A person who treats everyone around him or her fairly, asking no more of them than he or she is willing to give of his or herself."

Alarcón believes in adhering to the code of values that include sincerity, honesty, integrity and candor.

A strong member of the San

Elizario community, Alarcón spent many volunteer hours while during her military career.

"During my military career, I coached Little League teams in the military community, organized and participated in fundraisers," she said. "I organized picnics on special occasions to lift the morale and welfare of the soldiers."

Alarcón has also volunteered to build houses for Homes for Humanity and has organized Special Olympics events.

Board President Antonio Araujo said that choosing Alarcón was unanimous among the trustees.

"She's going to be an excellent board member and has a lot to contribute to this community," Araujo said.

"We welcome Ms. Alarcón to the district," Dr. Mike Quatrini, San Elizario Superintendent said. "She's joining an excellent team in a district continuing to move upward."

Alarcón will be sworn in during the June 11 Board of Trustees meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### Briefs

From Page 1

attend Club 3:16 at the Horizon City Community Chapel from 7 to 11 p.m. each Friday night. Admission is free, however, ID is required and a report card or letter from parent. Several hundred kids are attending, organizers said, and volunteers are needed to work the floors and concessions. Free pizza is provided. For information contact Dean Pinny, 203-3084.

■ The Clint Junior High 8th Grade Softball team has started a new tradition of excellence. In only their second year of existence, the 8th Grade Lady Cubs finished their season undefeated with a conference and division championship. On their journey towards the title, they defeated Sanchez Middle, Slider Middle, and Montwood Middle. The Lady Cubs are coached by Armando Rueda.

■ Desert Hills Elementary will hold registration for new students coming to the campus for the 2003-04 school year on Thursday, June 4, 9-11:30 a.m. and from 1-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. Birth certificate, social security card, utility bill, shot records and TAKS

results will be needed.

■ A Solidarity Ride on bicycles through the colonia areas of East El Paso County is set for June 14, beginning at 7 a.m. at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Horizon Blvd. and Acra. Several routes of varying length will be offered, cost is \$50 per rider. Proceeds go to a scholarship fund to help colonia residents improve their living situation, and the route has been chosen to elevate awareness of the colonia communities. Call 872-8422 for information.

■ The Rio Grande Girl Scouts have a full slate of interesting activities for all girls in the community, beginning as early as next week. From June 9-13, girls can participate in Camp Pioneer Hippie Days in a day camp that explores dance, music and crafts. From June 23-27, explore the history of the El Paso region during Heritage Camp, with transportation provided to sites such as Hueco Tanks and the Texas Museum of Natural History. Resident week-long camps are offered through July for ages 8-18 at Camp Tall Pines near Cloudcroft, N.M. which include hiking, camp cooking archery, stage acting, theater and costuming, riding horseback and caring for horses, and developing other leadership skills. For information on how to participate

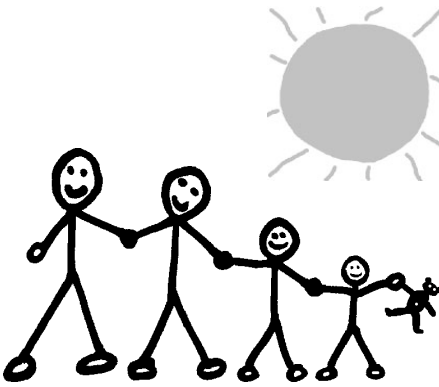
or volunteer as a counselor call Mary or Kim at 566-9433.

■ The Horizon City Police Dept. is looking for a few good volunteers. Two volunteers have already been hired to assist in a variety of tasks including answering phones, clerical work and taking vehicles for maintenance, thereby allowing officers more time for patrol. The HCPD will soon implement an Emergency Management Volunteer program to assist HCPD in case of natural disasters and crisis. At least one volunteers has been approved as a member of the Emergency Preparedness Team for Horizon City. A Citizen's Police Academy is also being planned. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and have a clean criminal record, be in good health and be willing to take orders. Volunteer applications are available at City Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and more information can be obtained by calling 852-1047.

■ About 20 students attended induction ceremonies at Horizon Middle School on May 7, four from 8th grade and 16 from 7th. The new inductees were chosen on the basis of meeting high standards in scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship and character. Chapter adviser is Bertha Macias.

### Carlisle Navidomskis is pleased to announce the opening of Horizon Family Counseling.

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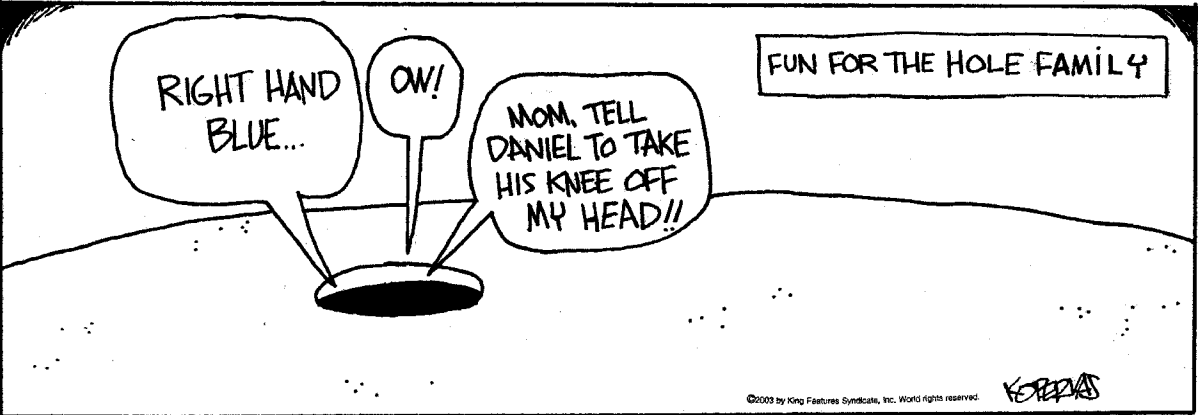
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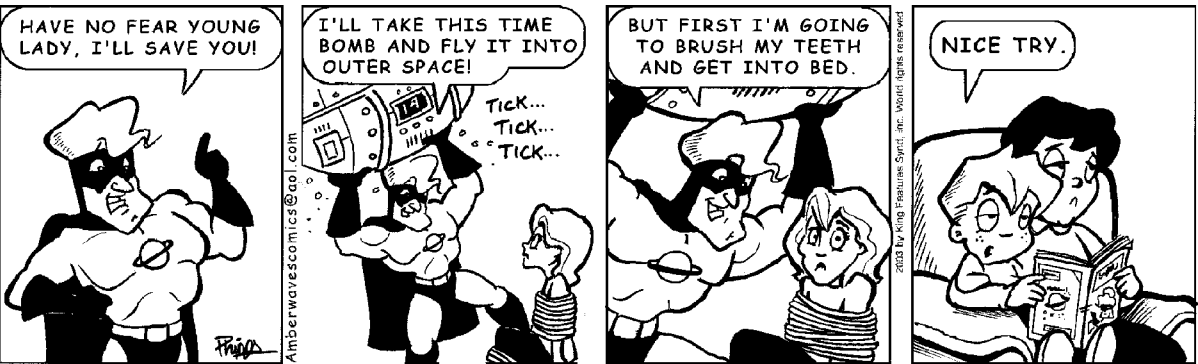
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



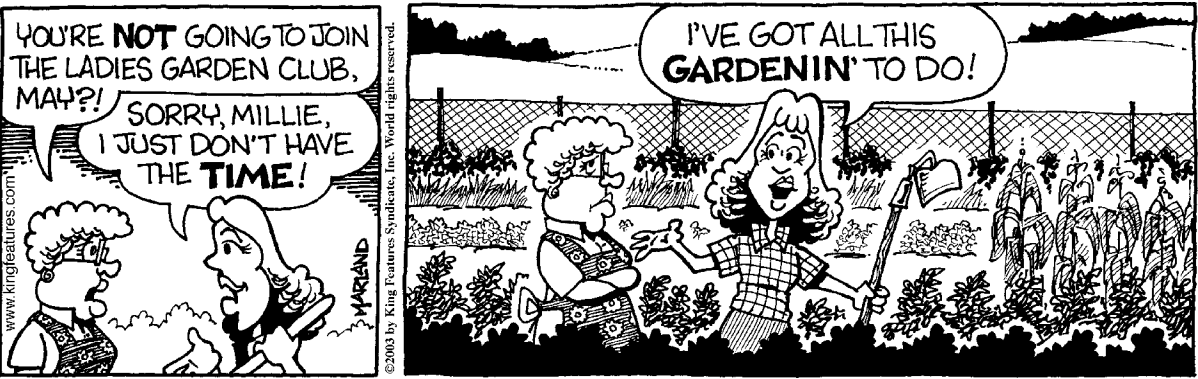
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Overzealous checking ruins stories

By Don Flood

A recent story about a new toilet that came equipped with Internet access has been debunked as a hoax.

Called iLoo, the toilet was reportedly being developed by the MSN division of Microsoft. One nice detail noted that Microsoft was working with manufacturers to have Web addresses printed on the accompanying toilet paper.

You can call me “old school,” but I found this announcement very disturbing.

From the beginning, this item had all the earmarks of a bogus story. That’s why I’m disappointed that journalism professionals — people who should have known better — followed up and exposed the story as a fake.

What do they teach in journalism schools nowadays? Don’t they know facts shouldn’t get in the way of a good story?

Now I’m waiting for that story about a Portland, Ore., mental-health center to be shot down.

According to one account, the center requires the services of a Klingon interpreter because that’s the only language spoken by some of the patients.

I have NO idea if this is true, but it’s a good story. Don’t check!

But the big news in bogus reporting comes from The New York Times, where for months a young reporter was able to fool the top editors of the world’s most prestigious newspaper.

Recently, the paper announced a massive internal investigation that uncovered numerous deceptions and falsehoods by one of its national reporters, Jayson Blair.

Among the findings:

- A story delving into the mind of a shooting suspect included an insightful quote from John Wilkes Booth. Following exten-

sive interviews and research, Times editors have labeled the quote “a fabrication.”

- A front-page scoop that talk-show host Bill O’Reilly had been named pope was based on “incomplete and inaccurate information.”

(O’Reilly did say, however, that as pope his “no spin zone” approach would provide the doctrine of papal infallibility with “a shot of much-needed credibility.”)

- A story about how Salt Lake City had become the new surfing Mecca following the disintegration of California and Nevada and much of Utah into the Pacific Ocean was “premature,” Times editors now concede.

The editorial team’s own investigation revealed that Salt Lake City lies too far inland to be suitable for surfing.

- A “trend” story about the growing number of nail studios on Jupiter owned by Asian Americans is “almost certainly not completely true though it may contain some elements of truth.”

In addition to fabricating quotes, the reporter also falsified expense accounts to make it appear he traveled to locations he never actually visited.

For example, one receipt supposedly documented the rental of a magical unicorn that allowed the reporter to be in two places at one time.

Times investigators, however, were unable to confirm the existence of any unicorn rental operation, magical or otherwise. They are calling the receipt a “clever forgery.”

On the plus side, an item about space aliens serving as U.S. senators has been substantiated, although much of the original reporting was lifted from the Weekly World News.

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - IGIBL5IEIKRII38970, 1989 Chevy Caprice, grey, Missouri license: 353RCY VIN - IFABP60F2JH152687, 1989 Ford Thunderbird, grey, VIN - 2FTEF2542RCA43923, 1994 Ford F-250 pickup, white, license KJF F40 VIN - JT2SV22E5H3128736, 1987 Toyota Camry, grey, Chihuahua license 989 SEA4 VIN -

VC24445HI268582, 1984 Volvo, yellow, Colorado license 10 HLG VIN - IDTVII229KWO31493, 1989 Dorsey van, white, Maine license L52 574 WTXCC-6/5/03

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:

ATHLETIC AND STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE CSP NO.

199-0618-0363

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2003, 3 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services

Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-6/5/03

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:

IRRIGATION SUPPLIES CSP NO.

199-0619-0366

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003, 2 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services

Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-6/5/03

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FOR RENT: Cabin in Cloudcroft by weekend or by the week, in the cool breeze of the mountains. Two bedroom w/loft will sleep six. Available year round. Contact 852-4997. 6/5, 7/3, 8/7, 9/4

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Available April 22. HCIA building, Ashford Drive, Horizon City. Call (915) 852-1811. 5/15/03

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Anthony Independent School District in Anthony, Texas is currently accepting applications for the following Special Education paraeducator position for the 2003-2004 school year:

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAEDUCATOR AT ANTHONY MIDDLE

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAEDUCATOR AT ANTHONY HIGH

Two paraeducators are needed to assist in providing for the instructional and functional needs of students with disabilities inside and outside the classroom. The Special Needs Paraeducator will assist in the implementation of Individual Education Plans in the areas of instruction, self-help, and behavior management at the Middle and High School.  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** An associates degree or a minimum of 60 college hours.  
• **Application Procedures:** Anthony ISD Administrative Office, 886-6500, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, TX 79821  
• **Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
• **Closing Date:** Until filled  
Anthony ISD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, age, sex, marital status, or disability in compliance with federal and state law.

# Canutillo ISD board finalizes high school plans, considers growth impact

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The board of trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District approved the final design for the new high school that will be built on land adjacent to the Northwest campus of El Paso Community College.

Action came at the board’s May 13 meeting. Presented by architect Sergio Martinez, the final schematic design plan incorporates changes recommended by board members at recent meetings. “There will be no

more changes,” said Alfredo Vasquez, public information officer for the school district.

Martinez said that he has met with different governmental agencies and public utility companies to apprise them of the district’s construction plans.

The enhancements incorporated into the final design call for more classrooms, making the auditorium and sports stadium and expanding the commons area.

Site preparation is under way. Thousands of cubic yards of dirt have already been removed in preparation for terracing of the land on three levels. The first level is administration and classroom areas facing on I-10.

Second is football and track area, and the third level will have baseball and softball fields.

Banes General Contractors reported there would be more grading of the area in June. Work is moving ahead, Vasquez reported, on installing the geothermal heating and cooling system.

Actual construction is not expected to begin until after the first of the year following the bidding process.

Dr. Pam Padilla, assistant superintendent for student performance, reported that 29 of the 35 third-grade students who took the TAKS reading test for the second time last month passed. One of the students has moved out of the district. The other

five will have a third opportunity to pass the test in June.

A report on projected housing development in the school district and its future impact on student population was made by Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent for operations and planning. He said there are 14 housing projects in the works within the Canutillo school district. They range from mobile home developments to \$200,000 homes.

In his superintendent’s report, Charles Hart said the district has much to celebrate at the close of this year for the many successes it has achieved. The successes include being financially sound, academic

achievements by students and the passage of the recent bond issue.

He praised the school board for its leadership and the administration, faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication.

The board also recognized and honored Ruben Salinas and Jacqueline Segovia respectively as valedictorian and salutatorian for graduating high school class of 2003.







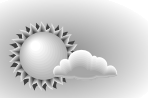
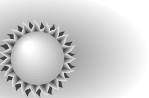
The board also recognized Laure Searls for her nine years of service to the board of trustees.

School board officers elected for 2003-04 are Yvonne Sanchez, president; Margarito Arellano, vice president; and Sergio Coronado, secretary.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Partly sunny, chance for a t-storm in the p.m.	Chance for a t-storm early; partly cloudy.	Clouds and sun, chance for a t-storm in the p.m.	Clouds and sun, chance for a t-storm in the p.m.	Partly sunny.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny and warm.
▲ 94°	▼ 66°	▲ 90° ▼ 66°	▲ 90° ▼ 64°	▲ 90° ▼ 66°	▲ 92° ▼ 68°	▲ 94° ▼ 68°	▲ 96° ▼ 70°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

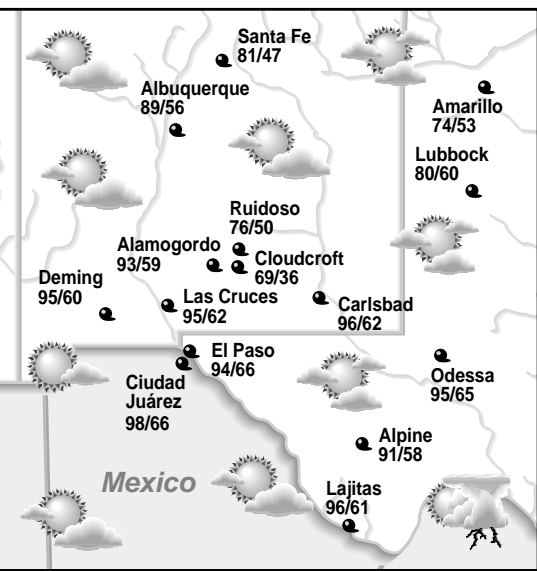
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	9	Very High
Friday	8	High
Saturday	8	High
Sunday	9	Very High
Monday	10	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

## TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	97	64
Canutillo	98	65
Clint	96	63
E. Montana	94	66
Fabens	96	63
Horizon	98	65
San Elizario	94	62
Socorro	94	65
Tornillo	96	63
Vinton	98	65

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	89/56/pc	84/54/pc	84/56/s	85/59/s	87/57/s
Atlanta	83/66/pc	83/69/pc	83/66/c	83/66/t	84/66/pc
Atlantic City	74/56/pc	72/62/pc	76/60/c	72/58/sh	77/56/s
Austin/San Antonio	84/72/c	87/66/t	86/65/c	91/70/pc	93/72/pc
Baltimore	78/60/pc	82/64/pc	78/60/c	76/60/sh	80/58/pc
Boston	68/56/c	76/58/pc	72/58/c	70/58/sh	74/59/s
Chicago	74/56/pc	70/53/t	70/52/pc	72/55/pc	75/54/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	84/70/c	82/63/t	84/67/pc	86/69/pc	88/69/pc
Denver	66/44/c	66/46/pc	68/48/pc	78/53/pc	80/54/pc
Flagstaff	78/42/s	78/40/pc	75/40/s	75/39/s	75/36/s
Houston	88/72/c	88/72/t	86/70/t	88/70/pc	90/70/pc
Kansas City	72/54/c	74/55/pc	75/56/pc	78/60/c	79/63/c
Las Vegas	100/74/s	100/76/s	100/72/s	95/71/s	95/73/s
Miami	89/78/pc	89/78/pc	89/77/pc	90/78/pc	90/74/pc
Minneapolis	70/52/c	68/50/c	70/52/pc	72/56/pc	76/62/c
New Orleans	88/75/pc	86/75/t	88/74/t	90/74/pc	90/73/s
New York City	70/64/c	79/65/pc	78/62/c	73/64/sh	78/63/s
Philadelphia	76/60/c	80/64/pc	78/62/c	74/60/sh	80/63/s
Phoenix	102/78/s	99/74/s	99/74/s	100/75/s	101/70/s
Portland	90/56/s	88/56/s	80/56/s	78/54/pc	75/53/s
San Francisco	66/56/pc	66/56/c	68/56/c	68/54/c	67/47/s
Seattle	84/54/s	80/52/s	74/52/s	70/52/pc	68/50/pc
Tucson	100/68/s	96/66/s	96/66/s	98/66/s	98/66/s
Washington, DC	78/66/pc	84/66/pc	78/62/c	76/62/sh	82/63/pc

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

## AGRICULTURE

There will be 7-9 hours of sunshine Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A thunderstorm will affect parts of the area each afternoon or evening with daily rainfall mainly 0.10 of an inch or less. Partly sunny Sunday; maybe a late-day thunderstorm, mainly east of El Paso County. Mostly sunny early next week.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2003

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