



# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



VOL. 30, No. 30

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

JULY 24, 2003

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Clint schedule change

The Clint Independent School District campuses have announced a change in the school day start and end times for the 2003-2004 school year. The elementary schools will begin classes at 7:45 a.m. and end the day at 2:45 p.m. The secondary campuses will start school at 8:45 a.m. and end the day at 3:40 p.m. This change was a result of increased student enrollment, the need to bus the children to the schools on time, and to eliminate the traffic congestion around the campuses. Call your child's campus for any changes in bus pick up time.

### Infected mosquitoes

Anthony Mayor Art Franco said the confirmation that mosquitoes in the Anthony sewage treatment plant, in the 9000 block of Doniphan, and near the Rio Grande levy in that area are carrying West Nile virus is not an undue cause for concern and that the situation is being handled quickly and efficiently by the El Paso County Health and Environmental District. Fogging with pesticide was intensified in that area this week, officials said. The virus usually causes only mild flu-like in healthy adults but the risks to children, elderly and those with depressed immune systems are greater. Last year the virus was found in the Lower Valley along the Rio Grande. Health officials recommend avoiding outdoor activities in the early morning hours or at dusk, that long sleeves and pants be worn, and that bug repellent containing DEET be used. "The public has been informed to take the necessary precautions to protect the young and elderly which are most susceptible to the virus," Franco said. "I am asking the public not to panic." He said representatives of the Health District will be going door-to-door to answer questions, and questions can be answered at 886-3944 or 594-1568.

### In other news

■ Canutillo High School will hold freshmen orientation Aug. 5 and 6. Schedules for returning students will be available Aug. 7. Classes for all students begin, Monday, Aug. 18. Freshmen orientation, or SOAR (Student Orientation And Recreation) program, is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 5 and 6, starting in the new gym. Different activities are planned, food snacks will be served, and transportation will be provided. "It is very important that all freshmen attend both days of orientation to receive schedules, student ID's, turn in shot records, tour the campus, and make friends," said Derrick Brown, CHS principal. Returning students may stop by the school office between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. to pick up schedules and have ID's made, according to the following schedule:

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*Acting without thinking is a lot like shooting without aiming.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Artwork gives glimpse of future Festival treats

EL PASO COUNTY — The Chamizal National Memorial's 30th annual Chamizal Festival will be held Oct. 10-12 on the Memorial Grounds. This year's poster artwork is by Rosemary McLoughlin of Las Cruces. "It tells the story of peace, of music, of celebration, of culture and of our shared river," said Virginia Ness, Arts Director. She said the festival is expected to be the best ever with a mix of everything from great Celtic music, to traditional songs and music from Old Mexico, Texas and New Mexico. "We've added Native American dancers and singers, and Joe Hayes and Alex Apostelides will tell their tales."



## Socorro to adopt formal procedures for release of public information

By Arleen Beard  
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — In recent months, the issue has been raised repeatedly by community members regarding the procedure to obtain public information from Socorro city government.

Trini Lopez, a former city councilman, has spoken at several council meetings to express his dissatisfaction in the steps currently required in order to acquire public information. He stated he could not understand why he was being asked to sign a form requesting public information.

Lopez continues to state this was not normal practice when he was a councilman. The issue has raised enough concern for the Socorro council to ask City Attorney Chris Borunda to draft an ordinance to adopt procedures and charges to obtain public records and information from the City of Socorro.

During the regularly scheduled council meeting last week, Council members approved the first reading of the ordinance.

In other business, council approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Irma Sanchez to sign a loan application on behalf of the city of Socorro for the Economically Disadvantaged Counties Program administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. Proceeds from the loan will be used to widen existing FM 76 (North Loop Rd.) from a two-lane to a four-lane divided urban highway. The section involved is from the El Paso city limits to 1000 feet past Horizon Blvd. In related business, council also approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Sanchez to provide the bond rating of the City of Socorro in conjunction with the submission of the loan application for the EDCP.

In a separate agenda item, council approved the El Paso County 911 District FY 2003-2004 Budget Analysis for presentation in accordance with the Texas Health and Safety Code.

## Baquera says she will lead San Eli High with passion

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Passionate and non-negotiable are two words that cropped up often in a conversation with Maria Baquera, the new principal of San Elizario High School.

Baquera, with 30 years experience in the education field, replaces Jerry DeFrank who retired at the end of the 2002-03 school year. The new principal was introduced at the July board meeting of the San Elizario school district.

"I am very passionate that San Elizario High School will be a shining star," she said, reaching for a tissue and dabbing at her eyes. She says this happens to her when she speaks about her passion — teaching children and taking care of the "whole child, the whole student."

"When it comes to kids, there are no excuses for them not succeeding," she says quietly but firmly. "I won't accept excuses — from the principal, the teachers, the parents or the kids."

Describing herself as a "strong student

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## Tornillo children's home flooded

*Lack of drainage cited*

TORNILLO — The flooding of the houses and property of the New Life Home, a Christian ministry in Tornillo, displaced 14 children and their caretakers, Ralph and Judy Wright, but it may have been a disaster waiting to happen during any significant rainfall, County Commissioners were told this week.

The first heavy rainfall in the area inundated the couple's property last week, forcing the evacuation of the children by firefighters and the Wrights and volunteers spent this week cleaning up the aftermath. However, the scenario was heartbreakingly familiar to a growing number of homeowners in the fast-growing rural areas of East El Paso County.

Construction and massive earth-moving projects have changed the natural drainage arroyos in many parts of the rural desert. This frequently leaves property on lower ground with no place for water accumulations to drain off. The rainy season over the last several years has left many property owners in the East County digging out from under several feet of sand and sludge brought onto their property by earth-moving projects on higher ground.

El Paso County public works director Robert Rivera told Commissioners this week that the New Life Home "should never have been" located where it is. He said it basically sits in

See FLOOD, Page 4

## Upper Valley question What to do with Gallegos Park?

UPPER VALLEY — Gallegos Park, the Upper Valley community park with a highly-debated future, still faces a murky destiny but it was illuminated a little by a commitment of \$1.4 million from El Paso County Commissioners this week.

Once touted as the future of soccer in the region, a plan to develop the 100-acre park as a massive soccer facility did not materialize. Recently a group of students from the Canutillo CASA Youth Council approached Commissioners with a more diversified plan that incorporated other community-use areas as well as soccer fields.

Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, who at first supported the soccer-only plan, reportedly encouraged soccer fans to protest the CASA proposal but later told CASA Youth Group Coordinator's he had reviewed the plan and felt it would meet the needs of the entire community — provided they included at least six soccer fields.

However, the estimates of how much room will be left over for soccer fields after the community-use plan is complete were far from consistent, and predictions of future conflict were made by Commissioner Charles Scruggs.

He told Parks Director Sally Gavlik that the commissioners "don't have a clue what the people from Canutillo want or what the soccer groups want," and that she should simply take the funding and "go do your job."





## One perspective

By Francis Shrum

### Half-told stories

Did you ever see someone do something that left you wondering? You scratch your head, perplexed by the behavior that makes little or no sense in the overall view of things.

I think it is because we never see even half the story. The untold chapters involve factors behind the "why" of human behavior, forces that would take the most insightful psychologist years to unravel. What is done makes no sense to others. To the person doing it, it's all perfectly understandable.

Sometimes what we do is hardly noticeable, like always parting our hair on the left side, or refusing to wear green socks. But sometimes it is so astonishing it makes national news. Like the poor folks involved in these scenarios:

In Santa Fe, New Mexico, a family filed suit last month against their local parish of the Catholic church. They contend their priest, while preaching funeral mass for their 80-year-old father/grandfather, stated that the departed fellow was only a "middling" Catholic and his eternal salvation was in jeopardy.

The suit claims the priest said the deceased was "lukewarm in his faith," was "living in sin," and "the Lord vomited people like (the deceased) out of his mouth to hell."

The family was "profoundly hurt," said their lawyer who filed the suit a year after the alleged incident.

Now, I don't believe for one second that this priest got up one morning with the cleanest and most blameless of attitudes and said these things at a funeral without there being some kind of baggage waiting in the lobby. We get a tiny little clue when, far

down in the story, it mentions that the dead fellow used to be a town councilman. We aren't told the rest of the story.

The case of the priest who should have tied his tongue is seconded by another interesting tale: There is a convicted murderer in Albany, New York, who wants the state to pay for a \$500,000 sex change operation and is requesting a transfer to a women's jail. Coming out of a prison environment, that's not really all that odd. But a judge has now ruled that ignoring the felon's request out of hand is tantamount to "deliberate indifference to serious medical attention."

Score one for the weirdoes behind bars and the bench. What is this man thinking?

While he stopped short of ordering the procedures, the judge said the inmate must be "allowed to discuss" with his doctors the administration of hormone therapy and prescription of breast implants and "genital reassignment."

The last paragraph of the story was the one that made me sit straight up. It says that the district attorney who prosecuted the case pointed out what an appalling situation has been created by the judge's ruling. He said the mother of the murder victim, as a taxpayer, might be forced to help pay for the sex change of her son's killer.

That's a story too sad to be told.

Finally, we get to the saga of the 174 dysfunctional Chihuahua dogs in a California animal shelter — lap dogs gone bad, according to one side of a fierce firestorm pitting animal rights activists against officials of the Los Angeles Animal Care and Control.

The tiny dogs have "severe

See STORIES, Page 4



## 30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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## Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

### Project encourages stockpiling of bio-terrorism vaccines



A project with a \$5.6 billion price tag was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives to encourage the private sector to develop and stockpile vaccines to combat biological and chemical attack.

Project Bioshield conjures up thoughts of science fiction and fantasy. However, it is now a product of the world we have lived in since September 11, 2001.

Under this bill, the government would encourage the private sector to develop and stockpile vaccines and drugs to combat biological and chemical attack. Under this bill, the government could relax federal acquisition procedures for some medicines and vaccines in an emergency situation, expedite normal peer review processes for grants related to bioterrorism, and allow the government to make certain treatments available to the public before approval by the Food and Drug Admin-

istration (FDA).

Project Bioshield is another important step we need to take to prepare first responders and medical experts in case of an attack. We need to ensure that medical professionals from whom you will seek help are fully prepared to diagnose and treat problems that could develop.

While a number of emergency-preparedness measures have emerged since September 11, 2001, communities across the country have been developing plans for emergencies since well before the Al Qaeda attacks. El Paso has been planning readiness and preparedness procedures since 1998.

In 1998, El Paso received \$300,000 from the Department of Defense as part of the federal domestic preparedness program. The Department of Justice followed by providing a \$200,000 terrorism grant for equipment. In 1999, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) designated El Paso as a "Met-

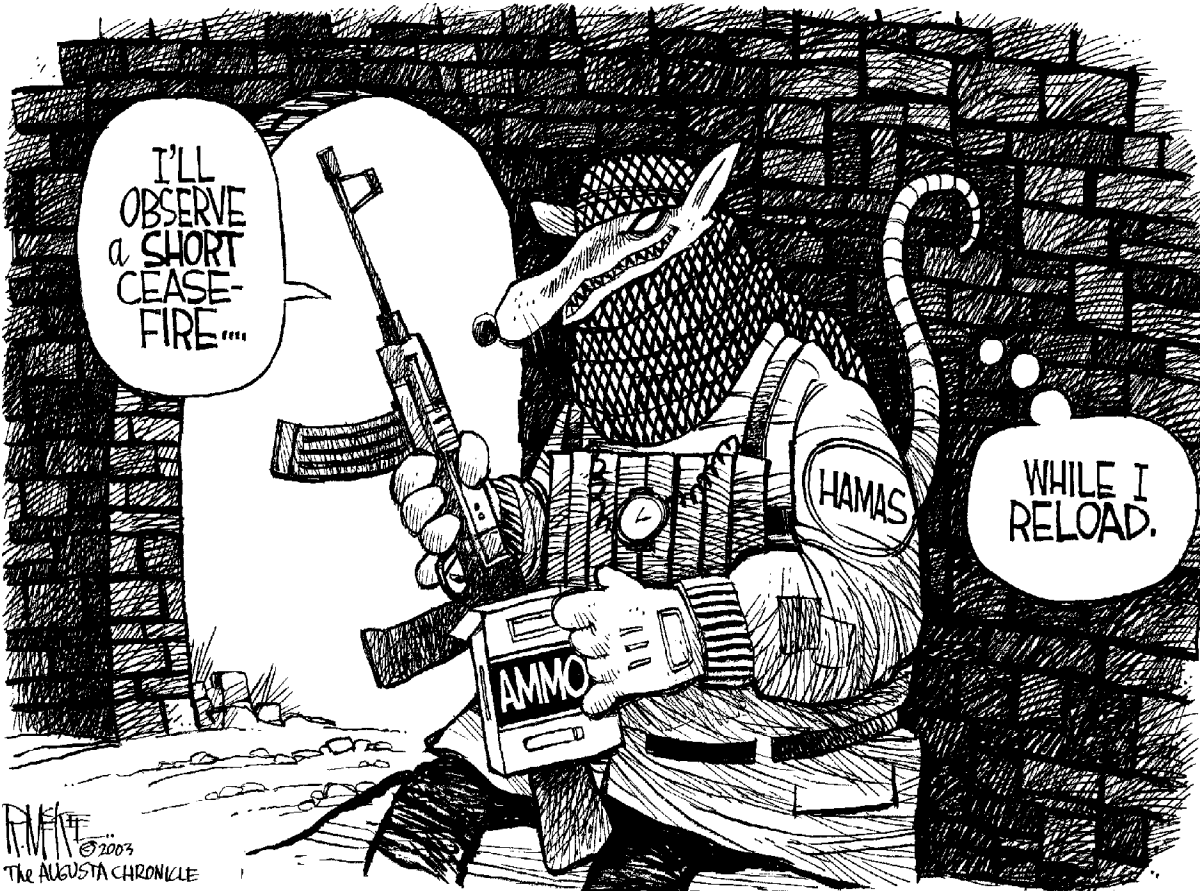
ropolitan Medical Response System" (MMRS) city — one of 120 cities across the country awarded the contract. With this designation, El Paso received \$600,000 to prepare for a nuclear, biological, and chemical terrorist attack.

El Paso integrated its local first responders such as the El Paso City/County Office of Emergency Management, El Paso and Fort Bliss Fire Departments, El Paso Emergency Medical Service, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District, local hospitals, the Border Patrol, and the local FBI to create a terror response system. This system included a terror plan and a pharmaceutical cache so that the area could respond to a chemical or biological attack and operate self-sufficiently for 24 hours.

The Department of Health and Human Services approved El Paso's MMRS terrorism plan, a two-year

See REYES, Page 4





Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

# Don't forget the Alamo!

Did you know that Texas is the second-most popular travel destination in the United States? With summer upon us, Texans are busy mapping out their vacations. The good news is that an exciting vacation doesn't have to include travel agents and complex flight arrangements. Texans can find some of the country's greatest destinations right here in the 23rd Congressional District.

Take a stroll down the River Walk in San Antonio, explore out west or set up camp at one of the many recreational spots in the southwestern region of our state. The opportunities are endless!

I am fortunate to represent some of the most popular tourist sites in the world. I encourage residents of the 23rd District to explore or revisit some of these famed spots. I have created a list of hot spots and summer events that are sure to provide an exciting and meaningful vacation.

**Big Bend National Park**

You can enjoy sightseeing by personal car, backpacking, jeep touring, camping, fishing, float trips, hiking

and wildlife viewing just to name a few of the many activities. Commercial float trips on the Rio Grande are available through outfitters just outside the park. Big Bend National Park is open year round, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/bibe/home](http://www.nps.gov/bibe/home) or call the park at 432-477-2251.

**Alpine/Marfa**

- Labor Day Weekend; Big Bend Balloon Bash and the Marfa Lights Festival

There are few more amazing sights than the contrast of colorful hot air balloons in the morning West Texas sky above the Alpine Valley against the Davis Mountains — except perhaps for the mysterious and unexplained Marfa Lights, seen by motorists almost every night of the year. If you're looking for wide open spaces and a touch of mystery this Labor Day weekend... go West! For more information visit the Marfa Chamber of Commerce online or call them at 800-650-9696.

**San Antonio**

- The Alamo and The Riverwalk

I am proud that more than 2.5 million people visit San Antonio each year to see the 4.2 acre complex known worldwide as "The Alamo." The Alamo is open every day of the year except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Visitation hours are 9:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on Sunday. The jewel of San Antonio is the Riverwalk. After the Alamo, it's the most visited attraction in the State! The Riverwalk offers a variety of attractions and activities including riverboat rides, live music, art galleries, great shopping, and world class restaurants. For more information on the above attractions visit [www.sachamber.org](http://www.sachamber.org) or call 210-229-2100(10) 229-2100.

**Del Rio/ Lake Amistad**

- National Recreation Area

Situated on the U.S.-Mexico Border and near the city of Del Rio, Lake Amistad is known primarily for excel-



For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

# The big "Why?" list

I'm often stumped by questions my children ask. The older they get, the harder their questions.

What is cancer? Why do we have tonsils? Who invented the first car? Why did World War II start?

I have my nose in the encyclopedia often or use the Internet for our research, but their questions are coming faster than I can look them up. Perhaps as you are answering your own children's questions this summer, you can help us out, too.

Here's my kids' big "Why?" list:

1. How does thumping a watermelon help check for ripeness?
2. Do ticks, mosquitoes and flies have a purpose other than being blood suckers and pests?
3. Why are there fish in the ocean?
4. Why are there 26 letters in the alphabet? Why not 25 or 30?
5. What makes orange juice taste so sour after you've brushed your teeth?
6. Why will dogs avoid baths but love to swim in ponds?
7. When will men and women learn to communicate? (Mom's question.)
8. Why do things that are good for you taste so yucky and junk food taste so good?
9. Why do some people have more than others?
10. Why did computers used to be so big and now they are so small?
11. Why does it always rain after we've washed our windows?
12. Why isn't there a Brother's Day or a Sister's Day?
13. How is music stored on a compact disc?
14. What are freckles for?
15. Why don't we have hair on the bottoms of our feet or on the palms of our hands?
16. If we've been swimming all day, why do we have to come home and take a bath before bedtime?
17. Why did we hate to take naps in kindergarten but in first, second, third and fourth grades that's all we could think about by the middle of the day?
18. Are there really sea monsters?
19. Are there monsters under my bed?
20. How do seeds know which plants to grow into? How does a radish know it's a radish?
21. Why is there more commercial time than television program time?
22. Why do girls have to have the babies?
23. Explain atoms and matter to me. (Yikes!)
24. Why can't metal float on water and ducks sink to the bottom?

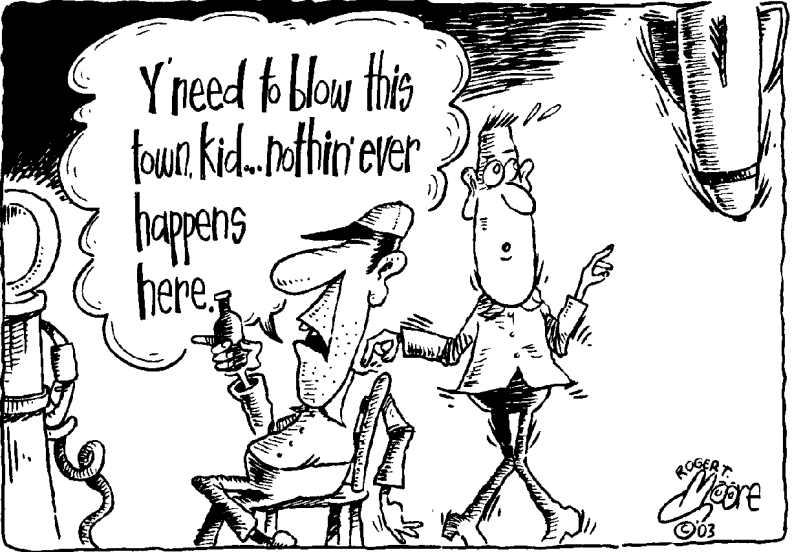
Well, I've just been asked why breakfast isn't ready yet. I better go. Have fun with your inquisitive kids this summer.

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Miss an issue? Going out of town?

www.wtccourier.com

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore July 13, 1944, Bombers from Biggs Field in El Paso accidentally dump their dummy bombs on Sierra Blanca.



lent water recreation including: boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving and water-skiing. Areas surrounding the lake provide opportunities for picnicking, camping and hunting. Ciudad Acuna is just a short drive from the lake where visitors can cross the border for an afternoon of shopping and authentic Mexican cuisine. For more information on the lake and the recreation area visit [www.nps.gov/amis](http://www.nps.gov/amis) or call (830)775-7491.

- Garner State Park

Profound canyons, crystal-clear streams, towering mesas, and chiseled limestone cliffs are among the many sites that you will discover within this intriguing terrain. Garner State Park is found in the northern part of Uvalde County. Located thirty miles north of Uvalde and seven miles north of ConCan, Garner State Park has ten acres of awe inspiring riverfront. The park offers camping, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, swimming in the Frio River, miniature golf, paddle boat rentals, juke box dancing at the concessions building, and bike riding. "Friends of Garner State Park" has introduced a new program called "Cowboy Sunset Serenade." This program gives an overview of the history of the American Cowboy through songs and cowboy poetry. These performances are held from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For more information visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner) or call 830/232-6132.

There are hundreds of ways to make Texas your vacation destination this summer. Take joy in the natural beauty and wonder of our state and invite a friend "down" to share in the fun. For more ideas about where to go with your family in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, visit our state's <http://www.TravelTex.com> web site.



# Principal

From Page 1

advocate,” she adds, “nothing less than the best is acceptable for the youth; that is non-negotiable. I have become more passionate about it. That is non-negotiable.”

This was not always the case for Baquera who began her education career in 1973 as a teacher at Bel Air High School in the Ysleta school district. She taught until 1997 at which time she went into the administrative field. She served as assistant principal at Eastwood, Riverside and Del Valle High Schools before coming to San Elizario.

At first she says she focused primarily on teaching the subject matter. Later on, she changed. She shifted the emphasis from teaching the subject matter to teaching the children. She felt that, in putting the priority on teaching the children, that the subject matter would fall into place.

Why this approach?

She puts it in blunt, non-academic terms. She remembers being taught

by “lousy teachers.” She remembers working with some “lousy teachers.”

Baquera meets with her teachers on Aug. 12 and classes begin Aug. 18. “I look forward to building strong relationships of collaboration, support and collegiality (with them).

“I hope the teachers will work with me to meet high academic goals for students. That they will be more passionate. I am sure they have passion, but passion has to grow. I think it will.”

To help the teachers meet the goals for students’ successes, she is targeting staff development to provide them with the tools to improve the level of instruction. Predictably, she adds, “less than the best for students is non-negotiable.”

She expresses no reservations or doubts about taking over as principal of a high school.

“I know what to do. I am ready for this job. I have been waiting for this opportunity. I am going into this job with confidence.”

Three factors attracted Baquera to San Elizario.

First, she saw that the high school had achieved success in the past,

growing number of people living and building in the formerly uninhabited areas has made flooding and property damage a major issue.

Relief to some parts of the county may already be on the way, according to an announcement this week from Congressman Silvestre Reyes. He said \$235,000 for preconstruction engineering and design for the Sparks Arroyo Flood Control Project was recently earmarked in the 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

A relief fund account has been set up to accept donations to help the New Life Home recuperate from the disaster. The account is at the First National Bank, account number 100468322. Information is at 764-3019 or 490-4482.



Maria Baquera

# Flood

From Page 1

a “10-foot hole from which there is no way out.” He added, “I’m surprised somebody didn’t drown.”

He said the flooding appears to be result of grading behind the new Tornillo High School that changed the flow of an arroyo. He said the school district had removed soil from the area to use at the construction site of the Tornillo middle school — a process for which they did not have to have a permit, he said.

A flood control plan for the entire rural area of the county has been in the works for years, however, the

earning Recognized status. Secondly, the size was manageable. She came to San Elizario, with a student population of 1,100, from Del Valle that had a student population of 1,800.

The third reason is the community

itself. She was born in El Paso, but raised in Mexico. She came to Ysleta at age 12. She finds similarities between the two communities — both are traditional, conservative and Hispanic.

She says with a smile that she

hopes her passion for helping students succeed becomes “infectious,” spreading through the school system and the community.

“Children are the most precious resource that our nation has.”

# Briefs

From Page 1

Sophomores-Thursday, Aug. 7; Juniors-Friday, Aug. 8; and Seniors-Tuesday, Aug. 12. “After Friday, Aug. 15, schedules will remain as issued unless there are extenuating circumstances,” said Brown. New high school students in the district should stop by the CHS Office to register as soon as possible. New students should bring social security card, a utility bill, shot records, and report card or transcript from previous school. For more information, call the CHS Office, at 877-7500.

■ San Elizario ISD will hold registration at all schedules according to the following schedules:

- Loya Primary – Aug. 6, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Alarcón Elementary – July 28 and 29; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Borrego Elementary - July 28 and 29; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sambrano Elementary registered July 18.
- Middle School - Uniform vendors will be available during Middle School registration: 6th grade - Aug. 5, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. 7th grade - Aug. 6, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. 8th grade - Aug. 7, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Late registration is Aug. 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- High School

9th grade - Aug. 5, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
10th grade - Aug. 6, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
11th and 12th grade - Aug. 7, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
New students and late registration - Aug. 8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
■ “Back to School” mini swap meet, sponsored by the Church of the Incarnation, is offering an opportunity to buy, sell or trade. Open to everyone, with spaces rented for \$5 each, the event will be Saturday, July 26, 7 a.m. to noon, at 15000 Darrington Road in Horizon City. Vendors are welcome. For information call Holly Truesdale, 852-3954.

■ Clint Independent School District Site Base Decision Making (SBDM) Committee is soliciting community, business, and parent volunteers to participate in the 2003-2004 SBDM Committee. The SBDM works with the District’s set of goals to develop activities that will accomplish these goals. The committee meets once every six weeks at 7:45 a.m. at the new central office on Horizon Blvd. If you are interested in becoming a member, call the office of Superintendent Dr. Donna Smith at 851-2878 for an application.

■ Horizon Middle/High School will provide physicals for athletes in grades 7th-10th at the school on Saturday, Aug. 2 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 per student.

■ The Socorro ISD Community Service program is offering com-

puter classes for adults beginning July 28. Registration will begin July 23. Beginning and intermediate classes will be offered in Microsoft Office, the internet, using e-mail and keyboarding. Classes will be at 313 S. Rio Vista in Socorro and are open to all community members 18 years and older. For more information call 937-1700 or 937-1704.

■ With a fast-approaching application deadline of Aug. 4, the DPS is stepping up efforts to attract trooper applicants to an October recruit school. “We have an urgent need for trooper-trainees to offset retirements and to fill trooper openings associated with NAFTA,” said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. “We need an immediate influx of applicants to ensure a quality, diversified applicant pool to fill our next recruit school.” The six-month training academy will start Oct. 13 in Austin. Application packets can be picked up at the nearest DPS office and information is on the DPS Web site, [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us) <<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/>> or by calling toll-free 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667). An applicant must be a U.S. citizen, at least 20 years of age and have completed 90 hours of college credit. Law enforcement, jailer or military experience may be used toward fulfilling the college requirement. Applicants’ backgrounds are carefully scrutinized for prior criminal history. DPS is an equal opportunity employer.

# PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2003, at 9:00 A.M., at The El Paso MPO Office, c/o The Gateway Business Center, 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79935.** A copy of the agenda can be found on our Web Page at <http://www.elpasompo.org>. For more information contact the MPO Office at (915) 591-9735, Ext. 11.

WTCC: 07/24/03

# Reyes

From Page 2

project, in January 2002. HHS declared the project complete, functional, and meeting all the necessary

requirements to respond to chemical or biological attack.

In 2002, HHS awarded El Paso an additional \$100,000 to implement an Interstate/Regional MMRS plan. The plan calls for El Paso and Doña Ana County, New Mexico to establish a regional MMRS plan, and enhance the ability for both communities to assist each other in the event of a terrorism attack.

Since 1998, El Paso has received \$1.25 million from various federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, El Paso just received a \$2.148 million grant

from the Department of Homeland Security through Texas A&M’s Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) for emergency preparedness.

With the cooperation of all of our local first responders, El Paso continues to prepare for a possible biological and chemical attack. Through their efforts — and with the increased funding that will be provided through Project Bioshield — our community is assured that we will be better prepared if an attack should occur. The talent and drive that exists among El Paso’s first responders is second to none. I applaud their efforts and hope that other communities are similarly blessed.

# Stories

From Page 2

behavioral problems” and have become “unsocialized” because of the environment from which they were removed last fall. Their feral upbringing has caused them to become dangerous pack animals — some of their dominant members have attacked and killed more than a dozen kennel mates since their incarceration. A judge is now considering whether to have them put to death or to attempt to adopt them out to special families since they could not thrive in a regular family environment.

But the news report is all about the dogs and their impending fate. The untold story is about the 72-year-old woman, barely mentioned in two lines of the report, who was charged with felony animal cruelty after the dogs were removed from her home. What prompted this woman to allow such conditions to exist that produced 174 blood-thirsty little dogs?

I’ll never know. I probably don’t want to know. But it only goes to prove that nothing is as simple as it seems — that there is some kind of story behind everyone, every situation.

That’s something to consider the next time you feel an odd aversion to wearing green socks.



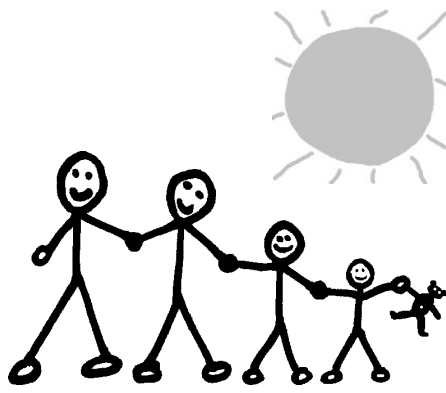
# Classes In Horizon

Share the joy of music with your child whether newborn, toddler, or pre-school. Enjoy a musical bonding experience with your infant. Teach your toddler musical concepts. Let your pre-schooler learn the musical cycle of seasons. Classes start week of Sept. 26. Now accepting applications, space is limited.

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View from here

By Jerry Patterson

# No more forgotten wars

Fifty years ago this week, America agreed to an unsteady peace on the Korean peninsula after three years of bloody fighting. On July 27, 1953 the United States, North Korea and China signed an armistice which stopped the war. Today, the 38th parallel divides North from South, and the intervening demilitarized zone is still a boundary between freedom and tyranny.

Some will say the war in Korea was a “police action” led by the United Nations. Others may say we failed to achieve a victory because three years of fighting ended in a stalemate, with Korea remaining a divided country to this day. The fact remains, however, were it not for U.S. military intervention, the entire Korean peninsula would have been overrun. The prosperous, democratic Republic of Korea that emerged after the war is one of our strongest

economic and diplomatic partners in the area.

Over 100,000 Americans were wounded in Korea, and 36,000 Americans, including more than 1,700 from Texas, were killed in action, yet popular culture has dubbed this conflict the “forgotten war.”

Rest assured, thousands of Korean War veterans living today have not forgotten that war. They live with their memories, and possibly their wounds. And they see a new generation of American men and women fighting on foreign soil to bring freedom to a threatened population.

The parallels with today’s conflict in Iraq are subtle but important. Both conflicts were initiated by Presidential mandate under a U.N. resolution without an official declaration of war. In both conflicts, the definition of victory was debated. Both conflicts involved a multinational force, with

the United States military clearly shouldering much of the burden and taking most of the casualties.

If the U.S. had not intervened, communist North Korea would have overrun the entire peninsula. North Korea is now threatening the world, yet imagine if they had been unchecked at the 38th parallel in 1953. Imagine the threat to the United States that would be posed today by unified Korea under the mad dictator Kim Chong-il.

Similarly, 50 years from now, hindsight may prove U.S. military intervention prevented an even larger threat to the world by ending Saddam Hussein’s reign in Iraq.

Regardless of political or diplomatic squabbling, the men and women of the United States military carried out their duties with honor and courage. In Korea, the amphibious landing at Inchon and subsequent liberation of Seoul in September 1950 was one of the most successful and ingenious American campaigns ever recorded. This year’s lightning-fast advance of U.S. and coalition forces into Iraq, and the liberation of

Baghdad will be similarly remembered.

Yet, for half a century, men and women who served in Korea and lived to tell about it, have had to endure a perception that their service was of less importance than the veterans of World War II. Popular culture venerates actions at places like Normandy and Midway - and rightly so. But who remembers a hit movie about Osan, Inchon, or the Chosin Reservoir?

In 50 years, will Americans remember the courage of U.S. troops at Basrah, Umm Qasr, or An Nasiriyah?

In each battle, American troops died in the cause of freedom.

We have an obligation to do all we can not only for the veterans of “the greatest generation” but for every generation. Whether the veteran returned home 50 years ago, or comes home next month, they are all deserving of our respect and gratitude.

Perhaps more importantly, they

have earned the rights to special privileges and benefits. Here in Texas, veterans can take advantage of a wide range of special programs, many of which are offered by a state agency I chair, the Texas Veterans Land Board. From low interest loans for land or home purchase to high-quality long-term care, the Veterans Land Board spends every day ensuring that Texas veterans receive the tangible benefits due to those who risk their lives on our behalf.

So as we remember a war that ended 50 years ago this week and took 36,570 American lives, we should look to the future. We must not let today’s battles become tomorrow’s forgotten war.

*Jerry Patterson is Texas Land Commissioner and Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board. For more information on state veterans benefits in Texas, visit: [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com) or call 1-800-252-VETS.*

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

# A closer look at the Social Security disability law

July marks the 13th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). And although there is no direct correlation between the provisions of that legislation and the Social Security program, there is no doubt that many people who derive benefits from ADA are also Social Security disability beneficiaries. So this would be a good time to provide an overview of the Social Security disability program.

Disability coverage was added to the Social Security Act in 1956. The benefits are funded by a portion of the Social Security payroll tax. Out of every dollar you pay in Social Security taxes, about 12 cents is funneled into the trust fund used to finance disability benefits.

As with Social Security retirement benefits, you must be “insured” to qualify for disability benefits. You are insured if you worked and earned enough “credits.” Currently, you get one credit for each \$890 you earn, not to exceed four credits per year. But, unlike the simple rules for the retirement program that essentially say you are insured once you earn 40 credits, the disability provisions are a little more complex. Generally, the

younger you are, the fewer credits you’ll need.

The definition of disability in Social Security law is generally considered a strict one. You may be considered disabled if you cannot do work you did before and you cannot adjust to other work because of your medical conditions. We consider your medical conditions and your age, education, past work experience and any job-related skills you may have. Your disability also must last or be expected to last for at least a year or to result in death. While some programs pay benefits for partial disability or for short-term disability, Social Security does not. The law assumes that workers have access to other kinds of benefits and support, such as worker’s compensation or insurance, during periods of short-term disabilities.

Because of the legal definition of disability, it is important that you tell us about all of your medical conditions and about how they affect your ability to work or function in everyday life. It is equally important to provide us with the names and addresses of doctors, hospitals, clinics and laboratories where you received

treatment or tests for your disability. We need to get a copy of your medical records to help us make a decision in your case.

If you provide us with all the information we need, you should get a decision in 3 to 4 months. If your claim is approved, your benefits generally will start six months from the date your disability began. How much you get depends on your past earnings. A simple rule of thumb is that the more money you made while working, the higher your Social Security disability benefit will be. However, because of the formula used, people who earn lower wages receive a higher percentage of their earnings. Many times, we also can pay benefits to your spouse and minor children. In 2003, the average Social Security disability benefit to a disabled person with a spouse and one minor child is \$1,395 per month.

If your disability claim is turned down, and you believe we made a wrong decision, you have 60 days to file an appeal. Obviously, the sooner you file this appeal, the sooner we can start to work on a review of your claim.

*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, mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.*

# Inspection of commercial buses expanded to include random checks

The Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Bus Association today announced the expansion of a commercial bus inspection program designed to improve traffic safety in Texas.

The effort began as a pilot program that ran from December 2002 through March 2003 at five weigh stations across the state. While terminal and destination inspections are commonplace, this was the first time en route commercial bus inspections were done on a regular basis.

The expanded program will now include numerous inspection sites. Charter, tour and scheduled buses

will be required to come in for inspection whenever an additional sign is posted. Bus inspections, like truck inspections, will take place on a random basis.

“The expansion of this program will increase scrutiny on bus drivers and bus equipment, which we hope will prevent a tragedy before it happens,” said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., DPS director.

One of the first bus inspections that took place during the pilot program resulted in the DWI arrest of a charter bus driver on I-45 north of Houston in Walker County. During the 90-day test period, DPS inspected 218

buses. Of those, 16 drivers and 17 buses were placed out of service for various violations.

The sites selected had to be adequate to safely accommodate the bus inspections in addition to the normal truck traffic. The sites were also evaluated for nearby facilities for passenger convenience and safety if a bus is placed out of service.

Inspections will focus on the bus driver’s commercial driver license, medical certificate and driver logbooks. The bus equipment also will be inspected, focusing on brakes, lights, tires and weight to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.

## Canutillo Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the Canutillo Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age, disability, military status, or any other basis prohibited by law.

The Canutillo Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Canutillo Independent School District will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Renee O’Donnell, (915) 877-7400 and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Karen Judd, (915) 877-7433.

- Office: 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932
- Mail: P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835

### Notificación Pública

*En base a la ley, es norma del Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo el no discriminar por motivos de raza, color de piel, nacionalidad, sexo, incapacidad, edad ó categoría militar.*

*El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas en las enmiendas al Titulo VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, El Titulo IX de Educación de 1972 que prohíbe la discriminación en base al sexo, la Sección 504 del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, El Decreto de Discriminación en base a la edad de 1975 y El Decreto de Incapacidades en América. (ADA).*

*El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Canutillo implantara las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del idioma ingles no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en los programas educativos y vocacionales.*

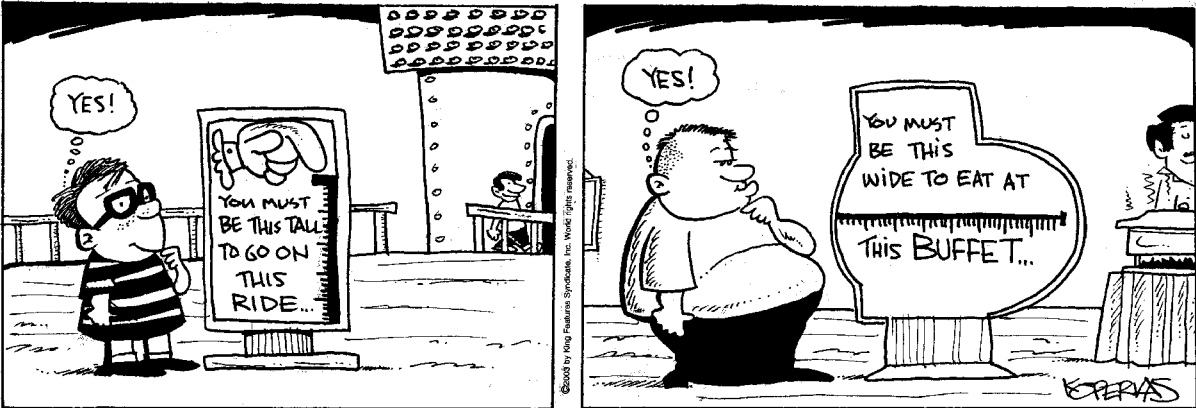
*Para obtener mas información sobres sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comunicarse la Coordinadora del Titulo IX, Renee O’Donnell, (915) 877-74400 y/o al Coordinador de la Sección 504, Karen Judd, (915) 877-7433.*

- Oficina: 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79832
- Envío: P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835





## OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



Amberwavescomics@aol.com

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CLASS, JEFFREY'S HAS A WORKING FIREPLACE AND RUNNING WATER!

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JUNE'S PUT HER ARTISTIC SKILLS TO WORK FOR US AGAIN, HENRY!

OKAY, I GIVE UP. WHAT IS IT?!

A MARKER TO LET US KNOW WHEN THE CORN'S AS HIGH AS AN ELEPHANT'S EYE!

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www.kingfeatures.com

### By Don Flood

When you hit the road this summer you will be in more danger than you know — and not just because you're a terrible driver.

According to an article in Shape magazine, the following foods “spell disaster not only for your beautiful abs and shapely thighs, they’re also big trouble when you’re behind the wheel.”

These, in order, are the Most Dangerous Foods While Driving: coffee, hot soup, tacos, chili, hamburgers, barbecued food, fried chicken, jelly-and-crème-filled doughnuts, soft drinks and chocolate.

(Frankly, I don't know what the big deal is about chocolate, but I've read that women like chocolate more than sex, so maybe a candy bar is just a little too distracting.)

The danger, as you might imagine, is that if you eat these foods while driving, your arteries will clog up and you'll have a coronary and jump the median into the southbound lanes of the New Jersey Turnpike — ruining your vacation perhaps but earning you a prominent spot on the 11 o'clock news.

OK, OK — the real problem is that eating and drinking can distract you, so do the safe thing: pull over, stretch your legs and enjoy a leisurely meal.

HA! Like that's going to happen!  
We're Americans! We're in a  
mad dash to have fun, and besides,  
if we weren't meant to drink sodas  
while driving then how come God  
gave us cup-holders.

The key is to enjoy safe foods, such as:

- Celery sticks

Yeah, right! *No one* eats celery sticks on vacation.

After all, you've been starving yourself for upward of 20 minutes just so you can indulge yourself! You deserve it!

But here are some foods that you can enjoy safely while cruising down the highway at 110 mph, assuming of course you're in the slow lane.

- *Lobster with drawn butter* —

If you shove the lobster into the cup-holder, you'll find it also makes a nifty lobster-holder.

Tip: When driving alone, don't crack the shell while passing 18-wheelers.

Also, safety experts caution that lobsters should be pre-cooked. Do not attempt to cook live lobsters while driving, unless you have the "lobster package" now available in some fine automobiles.

- *Fondue* — All the rage a couple

of decades ago, fondue has always had a big drawback: It's messy.

That's why the family car is the perfect place to enjoy this fun favorite. Your car's a wreck anyhow, and by the time you've been on the road for a few hours, it's a pigsty.

What's a little fondue gonna hurt? Bring on the cheese; bring on the chocolate! (Unless of course you're a woman and you're driving, in which case stick with the cheese.)

- *Watermelon* — More than just

a cool treat, watermelon can provide hours of wholesome fun as kids — and Mom too! — spit seeds at each other to pass the time.

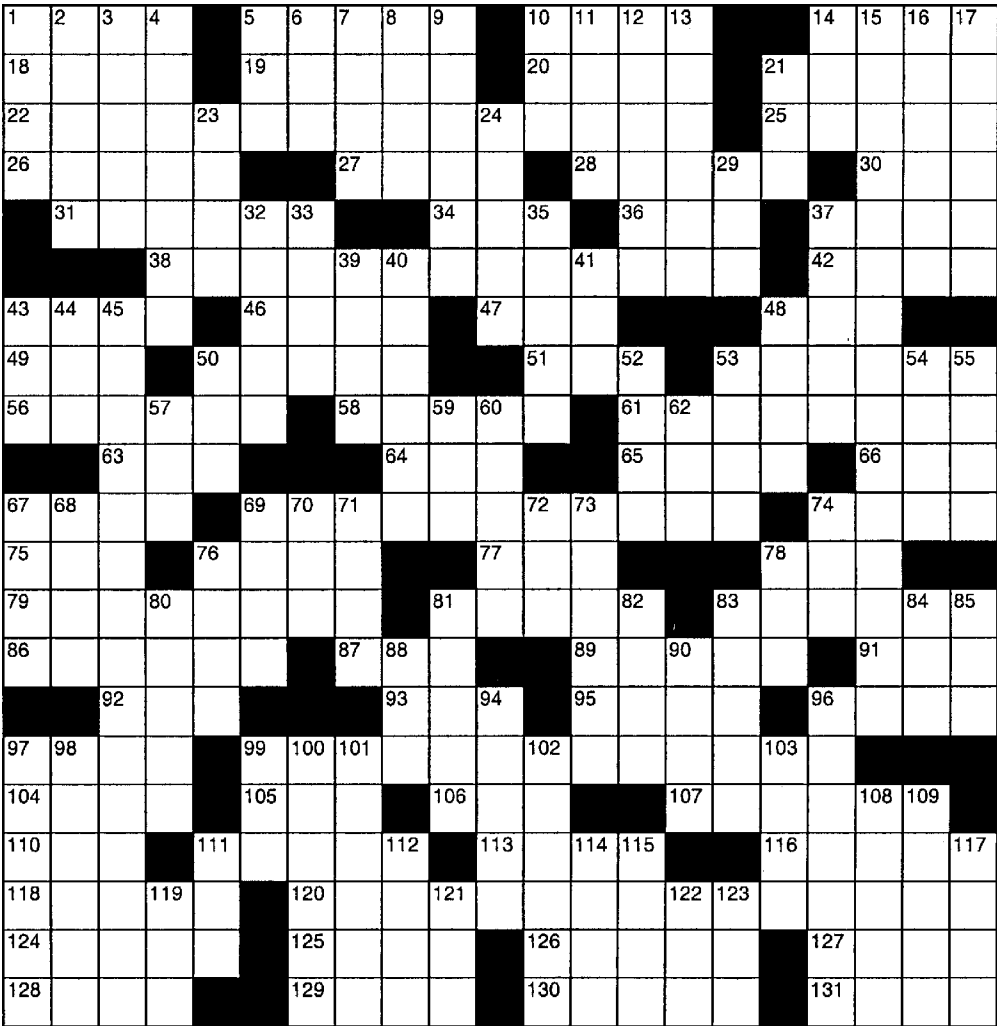
For those with larger vehicles, offer prizes for whoever spits the farthest!

Not that I eat while driving.

I wouldn't want to ruin my shapely thighs.

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# Canutillo ISD issues almost \$39 million in bonds to cover construction

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The board of trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District has authorized the issuance of \$38.9 million in “tax school building and refunding bonds” to cover all current construction projects in the district.

Action came at the board’s July 16 meeting. It brings together under one financial roof funds approved by Canutillo voters in four previous bond elections going back eight years.

It covers \$3.6 million approved by

voters in 1995 and 1996, according to comptroller Tony Reza. It also includes the \$23 million approved in 1999 and the \$12.3 million passed by voters in April of 2003.

The cost to homeowners will be about 3.5 cents per \$100 of property valuation. This would amount to about \$30 a year for a \$100,000 home. This goes into effect in September.

Reza points out that the district is making a pre-payment to the state in August to reduce its overall indebtedness. This action will cut the financial impact on homeowners who would have had to pay nearly triple the amount of 10 cents per \$100 valuation.

The combined bond monies will

cover the cost of constructing the new high school, construction of three classroom wings and other repairs, explained Alfredo Vasquez, public information officer for the district.

In his report to the board, Superintendent Charles Hart said the school board and administration are to be commended for maintaining an “A minus” bond rating. He said the board has done an exceptional job in demonstrating fiscal responsibility in order to maintain the high bond rating.

“It is a big feather in our cap,” Vasquez said, underscoring Hart’s comments. “We pay our bills on time, have the support of the community and show good money management.”

In construction-related action, the board approved:

- Dimensions Architects to design classroom wing additions to Damian and Childress Elementary schools and to Canutillo Middle school.
- Setting up the construction budget approved by voters in April.
- Project savings of \$121,000 to the new high school including change of metal roof assembly on Wings A and B.
- The facilities and finance committee approved the use of remaining funds from the Canutillo Elementary playground project to purchase shade canopies for the playground. The committee also discussed possible cost-saving suggestions with the

construction architect and the construction manager.









Comptroller Tony Reza reported that the district’s total investment value is \$11.9 million and the bond proceeds balance is more than \$21.4 million.

Rene O’Donnell, executive director for human resources, updated board members on the collaborative academic efforts between the school district and El Paso Community College. She said both institutions have met five times during the past school year to discuss possible joint academic ventures. These committees, she added, will continue to work together “to develop a viable partnership.”

## WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
▲ 90°	▼ 70°	▲ 92° ▼ 72°	▲ 96° ▼ 72°	▲ 94° ▼ 70°	▲ 92° ▼ 70°	▲ 94° ▼ 74°	▲ 94° ▼ 74°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

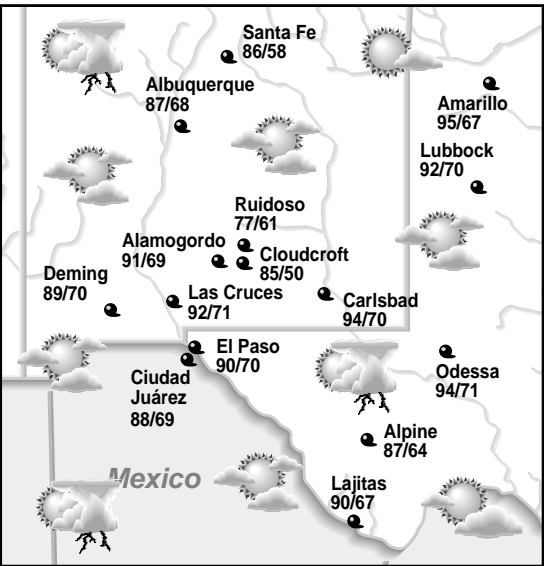
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	92	72
Canutillo	93	73
Clint	92	71
E. Montana	90	70
Fabens	92	71
Horizon	93	73
San Elizario	90	70
Socorro	90	70
Tornillo	92	71
Vinton	93	73

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	87/68/pc	93/68/pc	91/67/pc	90/66/t	88/61/c
Atlanta	84/70/s	90/70/s	90/72/s	90/70/pc	87/66/c
Atlantic City	81/68/c	82/68/pc	82/70/pc	86/67/pc	85/65/c
Austin/San Antonio	95/72/s	96/71/s	96/72/s	96/72/s	96/73/pc
Baltimore	84/66/pc	88/70/pc	90/70/pc	86/68/pc	84/63/c
Boston	80/68/c	82/66/pc	86/68/pc	82/68/c	80/64/c
Chicago	80/61/s	84/66/pc	82/65/pc	83/65/pc	81/59/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	98/73/s	98/75/s	98/77/pc	100/77/pc	97/75/pc
Denver	94/64/pc	96/64/pc	94/62/pc	92/60/pc	85/53/c
Flagstaff	81/54/pc	81/53/pc	81/53/pc	80/51/pc	79/47/pc
Houston	94/74/pc	94/74/pc	94/74/pc	94/74/pc	95/73/pc
Kansas City	86/67/pc	90/72/s	83/68/pc	84/66/pc	86/66/s
Las Vegas	106/82/s	106/82/pc	104/82/pc	104/80/s	104/80/s
Miami	89/80/c	90/80/pc	90/79/pc	90/79/pc	91/76/pc
Minneapolis	82/64/pc	86/66/pc	82/62/pc	82/63/pc	80/54/pc
New Orleans	90/73/pc	92/75/pc	92/76/pc	91/76/pc	91/72/c
New York City	84/70/c	86/72/pc	87/72/pc	84/71/pc	83/68/c
Philadelphia	84/70/c	88/70/pc	90/72/pc	86/70/pc	86/70/c
Phoenix	108/86/pc	106/86/pc	104/84/pc	104/84/pc	104/80/pc
Portland	80/56/s	82/58/s	86/60/s	92/59/s	85/63/s
San Francisco	73/56/s	71/56/s	72/57/pc	74/57/pc	72/52/s
Seattle	71/55/s	75/55/s	79/55/s	77/56/s	77/58/s
Tucson	100/76/pc	103/76/pc	101/76/pc	99/74/pc	99/74/pc
Washington, DC	84/70/pc	90/72/pc	92/74/s	86/70/pc	85/66/c


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 7-10 hours of sunshine Thursday and Friday with a thunderstorm in spots each afternoon or evening. Rainfall will mainly be 0.10 of an inch or less. Partly sunny and probably rain-free on Saturday. Another surge of moisture may lead to a thunderstorm in the area later Sunday.


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