



## NEWSBRIEFS

### First responders

The Horizon City Police Department will not be holding a September 11th Ceremony this year because of road construction on Darrington. The construction, which will create a four-lane divided roadway in front of town hall, would obstruct any activities in the parking lot and limit parking for the public. However, Chief Anthony Aguilar and other Horizon City Police Officers will participate in the "Texas First Responders Day" which is to be held at John O. Ensor Middle School on Sept. 11, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. The Horizon Volunteer Fire Department and other local agencies will be on hand, and the public is invited. For further information contact Ensor Middle School Counselors Nancy Lara or Ellie Smith at 937-6013.

### Transfer grant

A program to help El Paso Community College students transfer to UTEP just got an almost \$3 million shot in the arm, according to an announcement by Congressman Silvestre Reyes. The \$2,916,572 grant, administrated over five years, from the U.S. Dept. of Education will develop a joint transfer program that has been successful both in Texas and around the country to help students continue their college education. The Transfer Center at Valle Verde campus will be expanded as well as the Center at the UTEP campus. Outreach to inform students of their options is part of the program.

### SISD tax rate

The Socorro ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved a budget and tax rate last week to cover the 2003-04 school year. The budget was approved at \$256,481,835, with a supporting tax rate of \$1.60 per \$100 of property valuation — which is a decrease from \$1.61 last year. The average home value in the district has gone up from \$74,022 last year to \$75,357. About 17 percent of SISD's revenue is derived from local taxes — about 75 percent comes from the state of Texas and eight percent from the federal government.

### In other news

■ Diana Wendolyn Mendoza, a graduate of Fabens High School, has been awarded a scholarship by the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation. Mendoza received the Bob and Pam Liebrock Scholarship in the amount of \$7,000 payable over two years. She was awarded the funds based on having competed in the UIL Academic State Meet and on having an outstanding record of academic and extracurricular achievement. Mendoza, who plans to attend El Paso Community College and major in nursing, placed third in feature writing in

See BRIEFS, Page 4

*Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the high cost of hatred, and the waste of energy.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo courtesy of Socorro ISD

**OPENING DOOR TO FUTURE — Socorro High School Principal Oscar Troncoso, State Rep. Inocente "Chente" Quintanilla and Socorro Superintendent Dr. Robert Duron cut the ribbon opening the school's new "Go Center" last week.**

## SHS center to help students make a 'Go' of college education

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro High School's "Go Center," which officially opened Aug. 28, is the first such center in the El Paso area, dedicated to helping students and their parents obtain information about colleges, universities, courses, financial aid and academic life.

Texas State Rep. Inocente "Chente" Quintanilla and Socorro Superintendent Dr. Robert Duron officially cut three green ribbons during ceremonies marking the event.

The "Go Center" includes a book library and a bank of internet-connected computers, all located the high school's suite of counseling offices. "We were the only high school in El Paso that actually got state funding for training, and the school paid for transportation," says SHS counselor Mary Parazo. The unusual feature of the "Go Center" is a two-person student staff given training to help fellow students find the information they need.

Some UTEP students, members of the "Go" Theater project led by drama teacher Yvonne Carranza, also attended those same training sessions. They performed for the crowd during ceremonies.

"We were one of eight universities that got a

grant to use theater as a way of getting the message to high school students," Carranza said.

University student and Socorro High graduate Nathan Stell-Smith returned to Socorro High to tell the crowd of the importance of going to college. Using his guitar and music to the song, "What's My Age, Again?" Stell-Smith sang a tribute to the process of going to college — and to Parazo, his former high school counselor. Drama students Ecco Beggs and Fanto Marquez also told short stories about their college lives.

"Statistics show that the state of Texas is falling behind other states in the number of college-bound students," said SHS counselor Ralph Farmer. "So the 'Go Center' is part of the push by the state (with) emphasis on increasing college enrollment."

When asked about rising tuition making a college career more difficult Farmer replied: "In most cases, students can find a way to go to college. Yes, the state has raised tuition rates, but there's a lot of money available for students, be it grants or loans — there's all kinds of money available. So it's worthwhile."

## Technology saves money, speeds the voting process, officials say

EL PASO COUNTY — The voting process in El Paso County is now faster and cheaper thanks to high-speed wireless technology, according to the County of El Paso Elections and Information Technology departments which have joined with Mexus Communications to allow poll workers to easily access and update voter information via the internet.

The wireless service will be synchronized with the Voter Registration Database and be used to update voter history.

The Elections department is testing the system during early voting for the Constitutional Amendment Elections. Poll workers at two voting locations will have access to four laptops, instead of a single computer, due to

telephone and internet fees.

"This is an improvement from having to set up a phone line at each location," said Javier Chacon, Assistant Election Administrator. "Instead of one dial-up service, we now have several high-speed connections. It's much faster."

Mexus Communications provides wireless broadband services in El Paso. According to the Telecommunications Association, the number of wireless Internet users in the U.S. is expected to rise to 64 million by 2006.

For more information, access the El Paso County Elections department website at [www.epcounty.com/elections](http://www.epcounty.com/elections), or contact Art Armas in the Information Technology Department at 546-2041, ext. 3000.

## 'Adult cabaret' plans scrapped in Anthony

*Tax increase on the way*

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — Good news and bad news came out of the Aug. 26 meeting of the Anthony Town Council.

Good news: No adult cabaret will be opening in Anthony.

The Town Council meeting was held in the American Legion Hall instead of the Town Hall in anticipation of a large turnout of people concerned about a proposed sexually oriented business coming into the community. As it turned out, the larger facility was not needed because only a handful of people attended the meeting.

Mayor Art Franco moved for deletion of the agenda item regarding possible council action on Stella Steagall's plan to open an "adult cabaret." Council approved. Franco said that he and Steagall had spoken previously and had come to an agreement about dropping her plan for the business.

The mayor said she had thought it out and realized that the community didn't want it. Franco also indicated that she apparently wasn't 100 percent committed to her plan for the business.

Steagall could not be reached for comment.

Bad news: The residents of Anthony face a tax increase to support the 2003-04 town budget.

"We are feeling the crunch from Pillsbury (Mountain Pass) leaving," Franco explained. He said revenue from what had been the town's largest taxpayer was part of the town's economic base and budget in the 2002-03 budget, but not for the coming year.

"It doesn't look good," said Franco who indicated he'd been working on the new budget for the past two weeks. "Bottom line is that we are going to have to raise taxes; taxes are going up considerably."

He declined to give the percentage of increase under consideration.

There was considerable discussion between the mayor and council and the town's attorney, Richard Contreras, regarding the correct wording of and date for notice of a tax rate hearing. As a result, the town council tabled action on proposing a tax increase.

Town clerk and secretary Myriam Uribe said this week that a special meeting was held Tuesday at which council members agreed to a proposed tax rate of \$0.457707 per \$100 valuation. A public hearing on the proposed tax rate is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10 at the Town Hall.

In other action:

• Council agreed to let Municipal Court Judge Antonio Kosturakis pursue and negotiate with the Sheriff's Department on processing of outstanding warrants in the Anthony area.

• William Adler, chief of the West Valley Fire Department located in Vinton, proposed that Anthony join in a cost-sharing

See ANTHONY, Page 7





# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Town fruit revisited

In honor of recycling centers everywhere and by request, here's a reprint of a column first published in March of 2001. If only town fruit were edible, no one would ever go hungry.

“What’s that stuff, Mama?”  
“What stuff?”  
“That stuff out there on the bushes.”

It’s been a few years since I had this conversation with my youngest daughter. I had to explain to her that this was “town fruit.”

Town fruit only grows on vegetation near big, careless cities. It thrives on mesquite, greasewood and the trees in your front yard.

It can most often be described as the plastic shopping bag you get at every store these days — cashiers never say paper or plastic anymore — but it can sometimes be described as discarded junk mail or beer and soda cans.

The mature fruit grows big enough to be described as a rubber tire, which doesn’t require vegetation to thrive.

Now you don’t often find town fruit in the country, which is really odd, since the type of vegetation growing out there in the desert, miles from anywhere, is almost the exact type growing around town. So I’ve come to the conclusion it has something to with the number of people — maybe it takes the activity of humans to properly pollinate the crop.

Town fruit doesn’t always have to grow on the same plant, either. It can graft itself from plant to plant — from a cactus in a vacant lot it can suddenly take flight and attach itself firmly to the branches of a tree, there to flutter in the wind until it is har-

vested — if it ever is.  
I’ve seen some really major fields of town fruit out here in the East County which must have taken some significant cultivation. The size of the fruit is impressive — it looks like discarded construction waste, hundred of bags of household garbage, old furniture, boxes, even appliances. It must have taken years to have produced such a prolific field.

I frequently see people who care enough about their town fruit to haul it in an open vehicle, only to have it suddenly swept out by the wind on the freeway — I’ll bet those folks are really disappointed when they get home and find their fruit isn’t in there anymore.

Town fruit thrives while growing wild in vacant lots and along the highways, but I’ve seen it domesticated and grown in individual yards for landscaping.

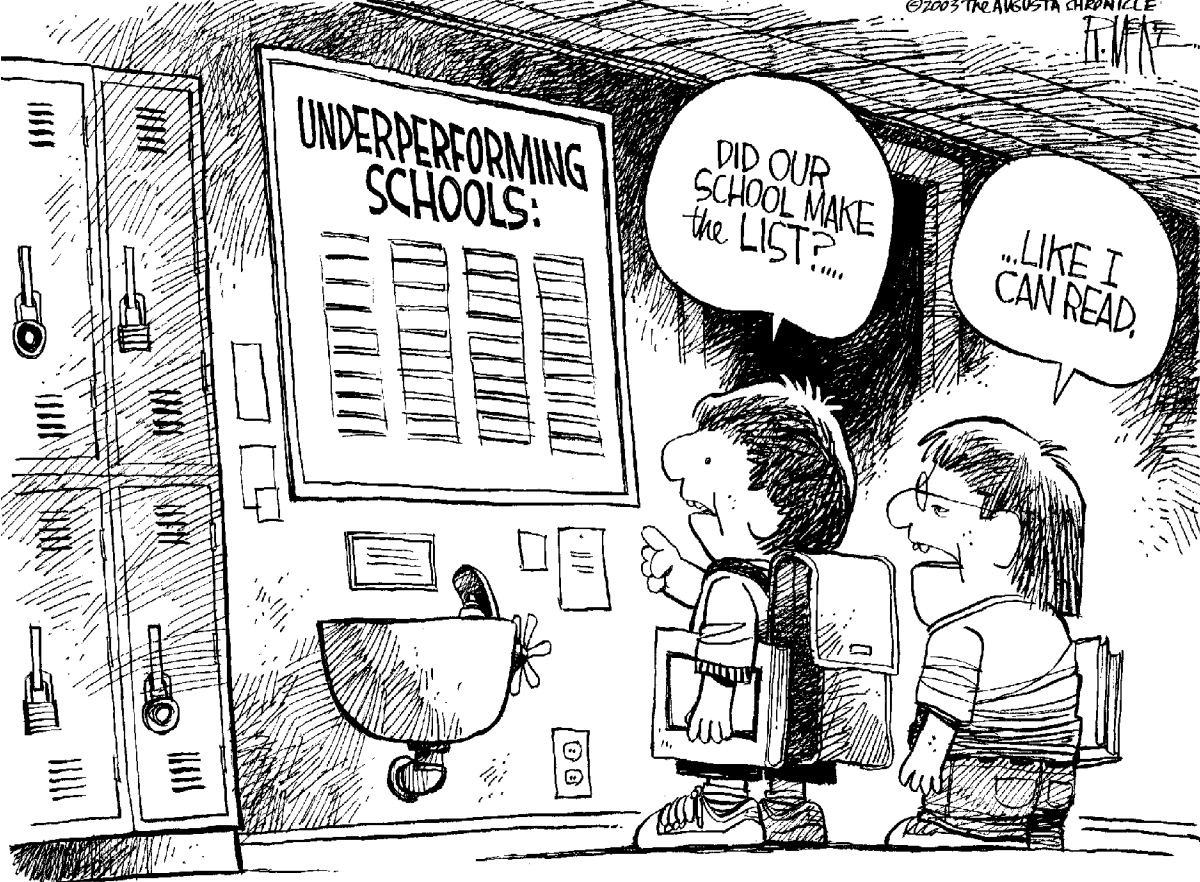
It also has magical properties — it can seemingly appear overnight, out of nowhere.

A few years ago when my kids were going to school at the campus near our house, we would harvest town fruit as we walked to and from school down the alley. But each morning there would be a whole new crop of it appear along the wall next to the school grounds. We finally discovered that the maintenance crews were harvesting town fruit off the athletic field and depositing it over the fence into the alley for others to harvest.

When we commented on this act of generosity to the vice-principal, it stopped. I guess the crew was shy about having their donations recognized so openly.

Unlike most growing things, I

See TOWN FRUIT, Page 3



# 30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CASUTELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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

**COPYRIGHT:**  
Entire contents © 2003 Homesteader News, Inc. Individual authors retain all rights. Pictures, drawings and written material appearing in the *West Texas County Courier* may not be used or reproduced without written permission of Homesteader News, Inc.

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

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

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

**DISPLAY RATES:**  
Open rate — \$20 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

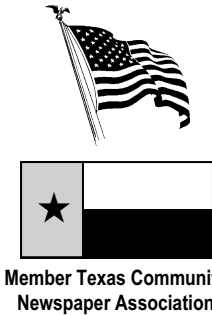
**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
52 issues for \$30. Delivery via 1st class mail.

**ADDRESS:**  
15344 Werling Court  
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235  
Fax: 852-0123  
E-mail: [wtxcc@wtccourier.com](mailto:wtxcc@wtccourier.com)  
Website: [wtccourier.com](http://wtccourier.com)

**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum  
**Business Manager**  
Francis D. Shrum  
**Contributors**  
Don Woodyard  
Steve Escajeda  
Arleen Beard

Homesteader  
Est. 1973  
News, Inc.



## Elder-bury whine

By Albert M. Balesh, M.D

Crabbing,” complaining, aches, pains, groans! All constant companions of a dear friend called “Old Age.” When you’re up, he brings you down. Our bodies are both friends and traitors, to be taken for granted in health and then turning their backs on us when we need them most. Can we do something about this, or should we drown ourselves in Tylenol, Celebrex, Kaopectate, and stool softeners?

Over the next three decades, the number of individuals over 65 years old will almost double, going from 29 million to over 51 million in the year 2020. This group will represent 17 percent of the total population. Currently, over 21 percent of all first admissions to state and county mental health facilities in the U.S. are over 65 years old. Furthermore, depression is particularly prominent in the geriatric population, with those over 65 committing suicide at a rate higher than any other group in the U.S.

Medicine cabinets crammed full of a vast assortment of multicolored elixirs and “bonbons,” upon which we rest our hopes for the future, are the envy of every “kid in the candy

store.” Exercise and healthy diet, too, have ceded the sidewalk to “pushers” in three-piece suits, who hawk their wares to the tune of billions of dollars in annual pharmaceutical revenues. Ninety-five percent of people over 65 now take some type of medication.

As we get older, we see a decrease in gastric-cell activity, resulting in a rise in the gastric pH. Blood flow to our abdominal viscera decreases, intestinal motility declines, active transport processes are altered, and slight of hand produces no rabbit, but rather laxative or Milk of Magnesia.

There is a decrease in total body water with aging, as well as a reduction in lean body mass. Body fat increases, and the increase in adiposity with aging results in a greater amount of drug stored in the periphery of our bodies. This in turn prolongs the time required to metabolize those drugs. Serum albumin levels also decrease 15 to 20 percent with age, and the concentration of free drugs (not bound to albumin, and therefore free to act) subsequently increases. That increase gives rise to more side effects, since more drug is now avail-

able to enter tissues.

Many drugs are metabolized in the liver to active and inactive metabolites. Still, in those 65 years old and older, hepatic blood flow is decreased by 40 percent as compared to a young adult. This results in both a great degree of individual variation in liver metabolic activity in the aged and toxic buildup.

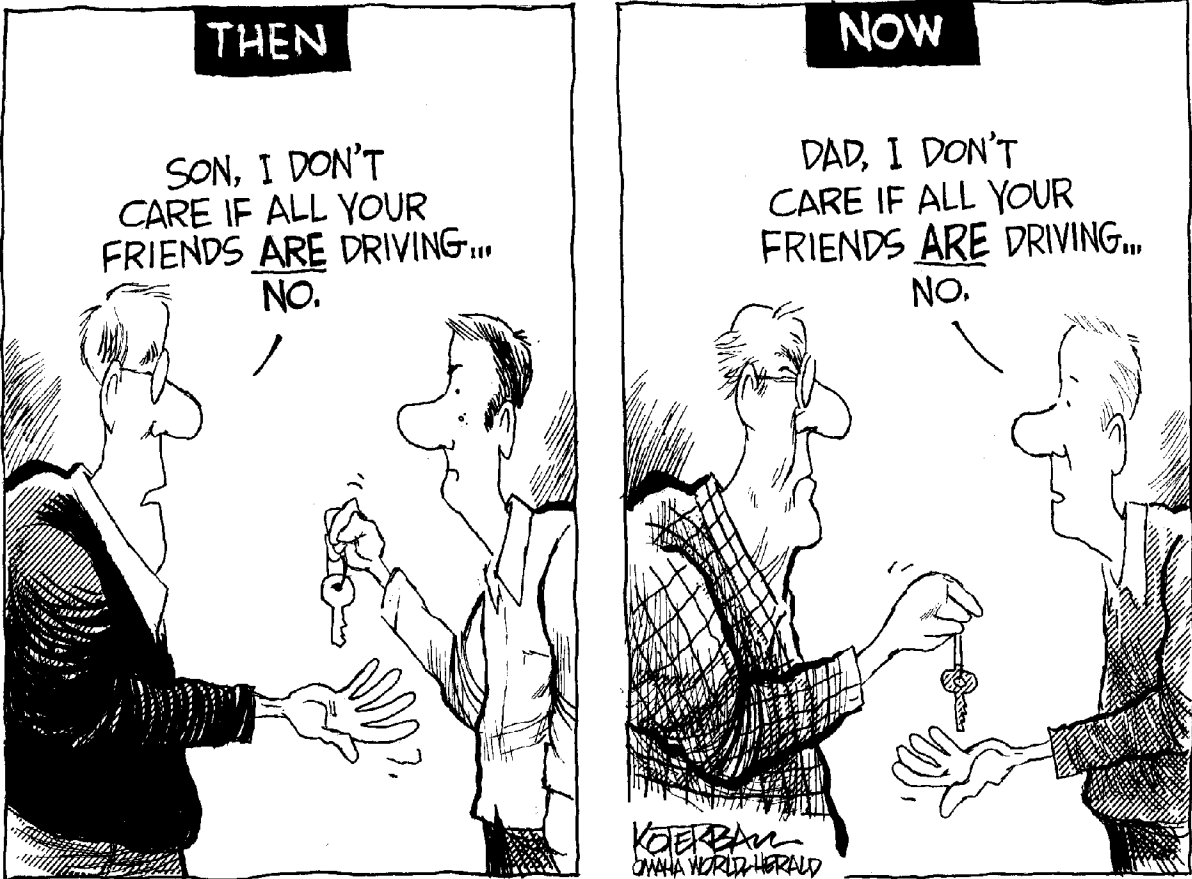
When we were young, a right of passage was not “peach-fuzz” as a preliminary to beard stubble, but rather the distance and sheer power of a urine stream. However, when our “plumbing” ain’t what it used to be, the processing of our bodies’ toxic waste tends to decrease. In fact, the rate at which we process a given quantity of toxic waste decreases 50 percent by age 70. A decrease in renal blood flow with age adds to the picture.

Perhaps it is just plain better to die young. A diet rich in vitamins and antioxidants, combined with stimulating play, nonetheless, can slow or reverse some age-related brain deterioration in dogs, which are a good model of human aging.

An occasional glass of elderberry wine, too, helps “bury” the elderly whine...

( 2003, Albert M. Balesh, M.D. All rights reserved.)





Town fruit

From Page 2

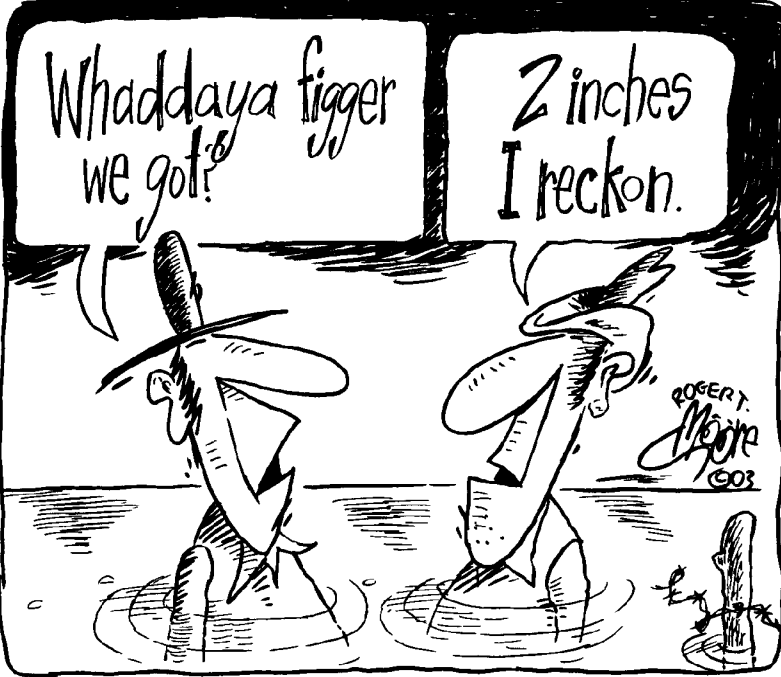
personally haven't found anything about town fruit to be esthetically pleasing. To me, it just mostly looks really ugly, and sometimes it smells bad.

But it must be pleasing to a lot of people because it keeps growing at an every-increasing rate.

Because of the abundance of town fruit, everyone is willing to share — if you harvest all the fruit out of your yard, there is no need to fear, there'll be a whole new crop delivered on the next wind gust.

There is one thing to said for town fruit, though — it sure doesn't need much water to flourish. Maybe that's why so much of it is growing in El Paso County.

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore September 9 - 10, 1921, Thrall, Texas got 38.20 inches of rain in a 24 hour period.



Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

National disasters are very personal when it comes to losing a parent

September 11 marks the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and the aborted attack that ended with a plane crash in a grassy field in western Pennsylvania. In some ways, it is hard to believe that it has been two years since that horrific day when so many innocent people died, and America changed forever.

The lives of millions of Americans changed forever that day, too. But none were affected more tragically than those who lost loved ones in those brutal and senseless assaults on our homeland.

This was depicted so well by a recent documentary about a small boy in Brooklyn whose mother died in the collapse of the World Trade Center. It was a poignant story of how one little boy coped with the sudden and overwhelming loss of a mother and how a family coped with the loss of a wife, a daughter and a friend. As President Bush said, "Everyone who died on September 11th was the most important person on earth to somebody."

Other than what the documentary revealed, I know nothing about the members of this family or their possible involvement with Social Security. But I am sure that if the cameras returned to their home today, they would find a growing boy who, once each month, gets a reminder that his mother, and his country, had made plans for his future.

That once-a-month reminder is a Social Security payment.

The little boy's mother worked for an investment firm located in one of the top floors of the south tower of the World Trade Center. That means she paid Social Security taxes, as do more than 150 million other working Americans. Most people tend to think of those taxes as an investment in an old-age pension plan — as something that will eventually lead to Social Security retirement benefits once they reach their "golden years."

But, as this Brooklyn family so tragically learned, sometimes life just doesn't go as planned. A life can be sadly cut short long before retirement is even a consideration. When that happens, families are often surprised to learn that the children — and sometimes the spouse — of a loved one who dies are eligible for monthly Social Security benefits. In fact, this month alone, almost two million children who have lost a mother or father will receive more than \$1 billion in Social Security survivor benefits. Another 200,000 widowed mothers and fathers who are caring for young children will get about \$125 million in Social Security benefits on the records of their deceased spouses.

As a result of September 11, 2001, Social Security employees have taken more than 5,000 disaster-related claims. Although some were disability claims from people who survived the terrorist attacks, most were for children whose parents died that day.

The next time you get your Social Security Statement, glance down to the line that refers to potential survivor benefits. Of course, you hope your family will never be in a position to collect those benefits. But I hope it offers some comfort knowing your Social Security taxes are buying this important "life insurance" protection. It may not be enough for your family to live on, but it will serve as a base upon which you can plan for your family's financial future should something unexpected ever happen to you.

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, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.



### San Elceario Catholic Church

## Fiesta 2003

<b>Friday</b> <b>Sept. 12</b> 6 PM to Midnight	<b>Saturday</b> <b>Sept. 13</b> 6 PM to Midnight	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Sept. 14</b> 10 AM to 11 PM
--	--	--

**Free Entry/Entrada Gratis**

- Entertainment
- Food & Drink
- Novelty Booths
- Huacha Tourney
- Fun For All

- Mail Boxes • Copies • Faxes

**Horizon Contract Post Office**  
**14200 Ashford, Ste. C**  
**Open 9 AM to 3PM, Monday - Friday**  
**Closed Weekends**

Briefs

From Page 1

state competition this year. She has also been active in extracurricular journalism, choir, math and band, as well as National Honor Society, Student Council, Upward Bound and Mock Trial.

■ Patrol agents with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection made two arrests and seized almost \$200,000 in marijuana in two separate incidents near Las Cruces last week using a mobile x-ray truck as part of a special operation. Customs officials said a 26-year-old Tornillo man, Oscar Romero Reyes, was arrested after agents found more than 179 pounds of marijuana in the 1997 Freightliner tractor-trailer he was driving. Another man, 47-year-old Craig Ralph Owens, of Albuquerque, was also arrested after the 1999 Freightliner rig he was driving was found to contain more than 60 pounds of marijuana

inside a spare tire and in two handbags. Agents were alerted to the discoveries by use of the x-ray unit, later confirmed by border patrol canines Cindy and Cora. Known as the Mobile Vehicle and Container Inspection System (M-VACIS), the x-ray is a non-intrusive system that employs a gamma ray source to produce images within commercial trucks and tractor-trailer rigs.

■ The works of Mexico City born photographer Jose-Pablo Fernandez on display in the Los Paisanos Gallery at Chamizal National Memorial, 800 South San Marcial, as part of his Nostalgia collection promise the viewer an opportunity to saturate the senses, according to Chamizal Superintendent Isabel Montes. “They are simply some of the most reflective photographs of Mexican life that we have seen. They are all at once breath-stopping, poignant, arresting, color drenched, insightful and beautiful,” Montes said. Adding to the sentiment, Juan Carlos Cue Vega, Consul General for the

Mexican Consulate, said that “the photographs have the power to take you to Mexico without actually going there. They truly capture the spirit of Mexico and the Mexican people.” Jointly sponsored by the Mexican Consulate and Chamizal National Memorial, the exhibition will officially open on Thursday, Sept. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the gallery. The public is invited. There is no admission charge.

■ Socorro school district police will offer free fingerprinting of kindergarten children beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Lujan Chavez Elementary School, 2200 Sun Country Drive. About 250 students are expected to take advantage of this program which allows parents to obtain fingerprints of their child to assist in the event of an emergency. About 180 students were fingerprinted in a similar event held earlier at Paso Del Norte School. Coordinator is Officer Joe Alvarez of the Socorro ISD police department and he can be

reached at 937-6614.

■ Joyce Kotys has been selected as a distinguished secondary teacher, eligible to participate in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program, which means she will celebrate Thanksgiving in Japan. She will spend three weeks in Japan, meet with Japanese officials, students and teachers, and travel extensively throughout the country. Kotys teaches at Socorro High School.

■ The American Heart Walk will kick off Saturday, Sept. 6 at 8 a.m. at the Chamizal National Memorial to support heart-disease research through the American Heart Association and the Heart Institute at Las Palmas Medical Center. The route for the 5K non-competitive walk will pass through the El Paso Zoo and will be followed by entertainment and a massive health fair. Admission is free but donations are encouraged. Persons interested in collecting donations for the cause may call 833-1231.

Chihuahuan desert places and faces exhibit ongoing through October

EL PASO COUNTY — An artistic history of early people of the lower Pecos, a watercolor exhibition of desert flowers and shrubs, zoo tours, the Salt Wars and the African American experience in the frontier Army are but a few of the topics to be covered now through the end of October in an ambitious exploration of the “Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert.”

Hosts of the event include Special Collections of the Library at the UTEP, the Centennial Museum at UTEP, the El Paso Public Library, Insights Museum, the El Paso Zoo and the Chamizal National Memorial.

Created in response to a slide exhibition curated by Chamizal National Memorial featuring work drawn from over a 30-year period by Professor Emeritus Rob Schmidt, a geographer, “Faces and Places” is designed to bring broad base attention to the importance of our desert environment to our everyday existence, according to Isabel Montes, Chamizal National Memorial Superintendent and spokesperson for the group.

The National Park Service has numerous parks and resource centers located throughout the desert region in New Mexico and Texas. Amistad National Recreation Area, Big Bend National Park, White Sands National Monument, Petroglyph National Monument, the Spanish Colonial Research Center, Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Submerged Resources will all be providing experts in subjects ranging from the lower Pecos people, to human impact on the landscape and archeological dives in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Stalking the African Oryx: Exotic Animals on our Lands and the cartographical history of the Camino Real will also be explored as will the uniqueness of White Sands and petroglyphs as a wilderness.

Scott Cutler, an ornithologist and widely respected curator at Centennial, will be discussing the impact of population on birds of the Chihuahuan Desert, while UTEP’s Dr. Bixler-Marquez will discuss the influence of Mennonites in Chihuahua.

Historian Nick Houser will discuss the Salt Wars of 1877-78 and will also bring the public up-to-date on the process of the Oñate statue.

Cultural icon Rosa Guerrero will be making two separate presentations, one at the Chamizal National Memorial for regional school children and one at the Insights Museum. Ms. Guerrero often discusses the cultural contributions of the many peoples of the region the whole.

Call the Chamizal for more information: 532-7273.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

The Town of Horizon City conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Town of Horizon City by 9.6 percent on August 29, 2003.

The Town of Horizon City is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, TX 79928.

WTCC: 09/04/03

Town of Anthony Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Town of Anthony will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceeding year by **40.11 percent**. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held **Thursday, September 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.** at Town Hall, 401 Oak St., Anthony, TX 79821.

**FOR the proposal:** Jerry Hall, Demetrio Cuellar, Luis Vela, & Mayor Art Franco

**AGAINST the proposal:** None

**PRESENT and not voting:** None

**ABSENT:** Channan Singh & Orlando Garcia

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$52,165	\$52,113
General exemptions available (Amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$-0-	\$-0-
Average taxable value	\$52,060	\$52,036
Tax rate	0.308317/\$100	0.457707/\$100
Tax	\$160.83	\$238.52

**Under this proposal taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$77.69 or 48.31 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.1494 per \$100 of taxable value or 48.45 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.**

WTCC: 09/04/03





# Canutillo and Tornillo ISDs earn state's highest fiscal accountability rating

Courier Staff Reports

EL PASO COUNTY — Two El Paso County school districts have been given a rating of “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ new Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The Superior

Achievement rating is the state’s highest for financial management and reporting systems. Officials from Canutillo ISD in the Upper Valley and from Tornillo ISD in the Lower Valley have announced that their districts have achieved the rating. This is the first year of Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating

System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources, a goal made more significant due to

the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finance system.

“We are very pleased with Canutillo ISD’s Schools FIRST rating,” said Canutillo ISD Superintendent Charles Hart, “as it shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers’ dollars. This rating shows that CISD’s schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently.”

The Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being “Superior Achievement,” followed by “Above-Standard Achievement,” “Standard Achievement” and “Substandard Achievement”.

“The rating is based on 21 different indicators. To receive a ‘Superior Achievement’ rating, a school district must meet at least 19 of the 21 indicators satisfactorily. Canutillo ISD met 21 out of 21 indicators satisfactorily, a perfect score,” said Tony Reza, Canutillo’s Comptroller.


— Alfredo Vasquez contributed to this story

[www.wtccourier.com](http://www.wtccourier.com)

- Back issues online
- Send classifieds
- Submit stories

### Tunes For Tots


Music Lessons for Kids  
Ages 0 to 5



### 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. 16. Now accepting applications, space limited.

Blooming Desert Music School  
478-0688



[www.musikgarten.org](http://www.musikgarten.org)  
iSibyl@mac.com

## For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

### Vavoom

If I sound envious, maybe it's because I'm a 35-year-old, slightly vain woman who each morning looks in the mirror and says a little prayer of gratitude for Cover Girl.

Not long ago, my kids and I sat in a restaurant where I had a bird's-eye view of people walking up and down the sidewalk. It was a hot, summer day, and people wore whatever they had in the closet that kept them from overheating. Some felt it necessary to show more skin than others, and that brings me to my story.

A cute brunette, dressed nicely in an outfit — tasteful but not necessarily in the modest category — that only 20-something women can get away with wearing, strutted by on the sidewalk. And I say strutted because it's a confident walk I've never been able to accomplish. My attempts, back when I was her age, looked as if I was walking with uncooked macaroni in my shoes.

Men driving by rubber-necked to get a look at the girl. There could have been a serious accident. Husband's stopped pretending to listen to

their wives. One man walking with his wife or girlfriend boldly turned around three times to leer at the girl. His gal finally had to elbow him in the ribs. (All girlfriends and wives applaud here.)

This scene brought back memories of Sandy, played by Olivia Newton-John, in “Grease.” You know, after she's been painted into the skin tight, black leather pants and is wearing the you're-mine-now-and-forever-Danny stiletto heels that make John Travolta (Danny) shiver and dance in a way that made all the female moviegoers want to say, “You're mine now and forever John Travolta.”

Well... I was in junior high school, so I probably wasn't quite in touch with all those feelings — yet. All I remember thinking was that I wanted to be transformed as Sandy had — from sweet, twin set sweater Sandy to VAVOOM Sandy.

The first thing I did was to get a permanent in my hair. Remember? Sandy went from wearing ribbons in her straight hair to having that luscious head of curls.

My hair fried.  
Never one to be discouraged, I

asked for black leather pants and heels for Christmas.

My grandparents said no. I blame them for my never acquiring sex appeal.

Today, at my age, I've really come to terms with the fact that I will never be the kind of girl I saw on the sidewalk that day. I'm not at all implying that she was loose, she was just the kind of woman comfortable in the skin and curves that God gave her and who had the ability to carry that skin and all those curves around quite confidently in whatever she was dressed in. She truly would have made the same impression on everyone around her if she'd been dressed in coveralls. The girl just had it.

I told my husband the story (he was sorry he missed lunch with us that day) and about the impression that was left on me after seeing the movie “Grease.” His take on it was different than mine.

“I didn't like it when Sandy changed. It ruined the whole movie for me.”

Uh huh.  
Sweater sets have never really been my thing; but just for him, maybe I'll go out and buy one.

(c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.



## It's Our Time vs. Cal Poly

### Saturday, Sept. 6 at 7:05 PM in the Sun Bowl Stadium

Sponsored by: 

## Fireworks after the Game!



### For Ticket Information

Call 747-6150

*Don't want to hassle with your own tailgate? Then come to ours! UTEP Miner Hospitality Tent located on Baltimore Field.*

\*Win Prizes\*   \*Music\*   \*Great Food\*   \*Beer and Wine\*

Open from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

- Master Licensed Plumber #M18624
- Bonded and Insured
- Senior Citizens Discount
- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sprinkler Repair
- Appliance Installation
- Mobile Home Repair



### Horizon Plumbing

852-1079

### Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss Tornillo Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

Tornillo ISD will hold a public hearing at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 16, 2003, in the Board Meeting Room (Red Brick Building), at 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss Tornillo ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 09/04/03 & 09/11/03



Carlisle Navidomskis  
M.Ed., LPC  
Family Counselor

### Horizon Family Counseling

By appointment only • Se habla español  
Medicaid and insurance accepted

14200 Ashford  
Horizon City, Texas 79928

(915) 433-7727  
cnlpc@earthlink.net

# The Miners couldn’t do, well, anything against Arizona

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

Make no mistake about it, I have made some horrible choices in my lifetime.

The time I reached through the chain link fence at the San Diego Zoo to pet that cute badger for instance — that wasn’t one on my best moments.

The time I decided not to invest in computer software because that Enron stock looked so promising — that was a choice I wish I had over.

And then there was that time back in college when my buddy dared me to eat a cup of yogurt that was two weeks past the expiration date... I don’t even want to talk about that one.

But how could I have been so off base last week? How could I have been duped that badly? How could I have made such a bad choice?

Let me take a quick peak at last week’s column just to be sure... yeah... uh huh... yup, there it is in black and white. I wrote down that the UTEP Miners had a chance to come away with a 24-17 win over the Arizona Wild-

cats in their season opener.  
Let’s take a look at the final score, Arizona 42, UTEP 7... and it wasn’t anywhere near that close.

My wife and I went to one of El Paso’s sports bars to enjoy the game on the big screen but before I got back to our table with the nachos, the Miners were already down 21-0.

I don’t know what looked sloppier, UTEP’s play on the field or the guacamole and sour cream on my plate.

I did watch the entire game, though. In fact, I watched the game so closely I can tell you exactly what UTEP didn’t do well enough to beat Arizona.

All that was wrong was the fact that the Miners couldn’t run the ball, they couldn’t pass the ball, on the few times they threw it well they couldn’t catch it, they couldn’t tackle, they couldn’t defend any receivers, they couldn’t stay on side, they couldn’t punt the ball, they couldn’t kick the ball, they couldn’t block and they couldn’t keep from turning the ball over.

Other than that, the two teams were pretty evenly matched.

So what does the lopsided loss mean? Are the Miners in for a third straight two-win

season?  
They just might be.  
UTEP has two sure wins on its schedule against little guys Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo and Sam Houston State. Other than that, the way UTEP looked against Arizona, I can’t see them being any better than last year’s team.

Also, we found out something about the quarterback situation. The reason it took coach Nord so long to pick a starter was not because they were all equally good. It’s because they were all so equally mediocre... at least for now.

I hate to say it but it looks like another long season for UTEP football fans. But just like any loyal Red Sox or Cubs fan, El Pasoans know there’s always next year.

## Thanks for nothing

Sometimes in life, you get rewarded for doing the right thing. Sometimes courageous people get the benefit of the doubt. Sometimes citizens who go the extra mile to fight evil are held in high esteem.

That is, of course, unless you look at the world through the unwashed eyes of lowly Baylor University.

Remember the assistant coach who had his

job threatened by Dave Bliss?  
Bliss was so out of control that assistant coach Abar Rouse took a hidden tape recorder into his conversations with Bliss and caught the former head coach spilling the beans about the whole sordid Patrick Dennehy mess.

I don’t think we have to go through all the details again. Besides, I just washed.

So what’s the latest with Rouse? Turns out he’s out of a job anyway.

New Baylor coach Scott Drew wasted no time saying adios to Rouse. I guess Drew figures if he does some underhanded stuff of his own Rouse will be the last guy he wants around.

It is true that when Drew was hired last week he said he would not retain any of Bliss’ assistants. And I can understand that.

But it just feels wrong to see people who constantly break the law get ahead in this country while people who stand up and challenge bad behavior are tossed into the unemployment line.

Will Rouse get another coaching job? The odds are in his favor. But if not, thanks to his new-found knack for secretly recording conversations, he can always join the CIA.

# Budget cuts mean fewer new doctors in Texas, publication says

AUSTIN — A major impediment is clogging the pipeline producing new Texas doctors, according to the September edition of Texas Medicine magazine.

As the dust settles on the 78th Legislative Session’s budgetary dogfight, gaping wounds are coming into view. Big losers in the cuts are Texas hospitals where medical residents complete their training prior to embarking on their medical careers — and the patients those residents treat.

This will cut down on the flow of new physicians to treat Texans, according to the magazine.

Physician residency programs are a sort of “on the job training” for physicians on the last leg of their educational journey. Funding for residencies comes from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to Medicare and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Congress has routinely chipped away at Medicare’s Graduate Medical Edu-

cation (GME) support in recent years, and the 78th Texas Legislature slashed at state funding even more. Texas Medicine reports the program called the Graduate Medical Education Program budget, for example, was chopped from \$15.2 million in 2002-2003, to just \$3.8 million in 2004-2005. Lawmakers cut \$42 million in GME funding in the Medicaid budget. Other programs lost 100% of their budgets.

Health care will be limited now and in the future, as far-reaching effects take hold.

First, according to Texas Medicine, the official magazine of the Texas Medical Association, take away the various ways to pay for residency programs, and either local hospitals and schools must make up the funding gap, or the residency programs will be forced to cut back or close. Residency programs perform a public service because patients are receiving treatment as the residents are

learning under close supervision. That robs patients served by those institutions of health care — meaning either longer waits to see a doctor, or no doctor at all to see.

And when the patient is served by Medicaid or CHIP, such facilities often are the last bastion of care available to them. They’ll continue to get sick or injured, but avenues to healing will be even fewer — or nonexistent.

“That does not translate into fewer babies being delivered or fewer kids who fall off their bicycles or swing sets needing stitches and casts,” Texas A&M System Health Sciences Center President Nancy W. Dickey, MD, told Texas Medicine. “What it translates to is community physicians and hospitals having to find a way to pay for care that in previous years was being paid for by a state and federal program.”

Second is the fear that while Texas will educate future physicians in the

state’s medical schools, those residents will have to leave the state to complete their residencies. According to Texas Medicine, trends indicate that physicians often choose to establish their practice where they complete their residency. Cutting residency programs in Texas would mean fewer young physicians would be in the natural pipeline to stick around and make their home — and set up practice — here in the lone star state. This is negative news at a time when doctors, legislators, and hospitals are seeking ways to boost the state’s physician numbers.

Both scenarios add up to fewer Texans’ health care needs being met. Some residency programs may be forced to close, and for those that remain open, fewer health services will likely be offered.

“They will have to cut back some services,” said James C. Guckian, MD, acting executive vice chancellor for health affairs for The Univer-

sity of Texas System. “It’s true not only for (The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston), it’s true for our affiliated hospitals, as well, like Parkland in Dallas, University Hospital in San Antonio, and Harris County Hospital District. These hospitals, because of the cuts in Medicaid and CHIP, also are facing budget shortfalls that they are going to have to adjust to. And since they’re our partners, and in many respects they compensate us for the care we provide to their indigent patients, they’re going to be strapped. As a result, we’re going to be impacted by that.”

*TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 38,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA’s key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.*

## King Super Crossword

### LABOR-INTENSIVE ACROSS

- 1 Tumult
- 7 Singer Dottie
- 11 Ignominy
- 16 Hydrotherapy site
- 19 Disquiet
- 20 "Nabucco" number
- 21 Bile producer
- 22 Son of Noah
- 23 '79 Judy Davis film
- 26 Literary collection
- 27 Bit of butter
- 28 LummoX
- 29 Forestall
- 30 Surprise test
- 31 Funnyman Foxx
- 33 Feta marinade
- 36 Light weight
- 37 Telescope view
- 40 Donahue of "Get a Life"
- 41 Besch or Andersson
- 43 Came around
- 44 '31 Marx Brothers movie
- 49 Toody and Muldoon
- 52 Monte Rosa, e.g.
- 53 Machu Picchu native
- 54 Vivacity
- 55 "My Sweet \_" ('70 smash)
- 56 With enthusiasm
- 59 "The Subject Was Roses" star
- 60 Norwegian com-

- poser
- 62 Bridge term
- 63 Conductor's concern
- 64 Mini, to MacTavish
- 67 Kirk's command
- 72 Itch
- 73 Explorer Sebastian
- 75 Elwes or Grant
- 76 Dodge
- 78 Spirited steed
- 79 Attempt
- 82 Obstacle
- 83 Salt serving
- 87 Mediterranean port
- 88 Skater Babylonia
- 89 Sciorra of "Jungle Fever"
- 91 "Double, double \_" ("Macbeth" refrain)
- 97 Heavenly hunter
- 98 "Dies \_"
- 99 Jim Varney character
- 100 Had a knight job?
- 101 Clear the slate
- 104 Dutch export
- 105 Take-out order?
- 106 Pull sharply
- 107 Valhalla VIP
- 110 Calendar abbr.
- 111 "\_ Wiedersehen"
- 114 Goal
- 115 Peter Graves series
- 121 Middling mark
- 122 Comic Sherman
- 123 Hodgепodge
- 124 Verdi hero

- 125 Hamilton bill
- 126 Effluvia
- 127 Wording
- 128 Basket material
- DOWN**
- 1 Phrenology term
- 2 "Orinoco Flow" singer
- 3 Liability
- 4 Household deity
- 5 "A Fool Such \_" ('59 hit)
- 6 Tune
- 7 Street urchin
- 8 History division
- 9 Offense
- 10 Make lace
- 11 Bondage
- 12 Take on board
- 13 Maintain
- 14 Competition
- 15 Drop a brick
- 16 Rocker Cassidy
- 17 Lose control
- 18 Stun
- 24 Housman's "A Shropshire \_"
- 25 Lake sight
- 30 Malaria treatment
- 31 Leaves work?
- 32 Small business-man?
- 33 Fair
- 34 \_ Tin Tin
- 35 Cephalopod's squirt
- 36 Kimono closer

- 37 Rubberneck
- 38 Way off base?
- 39 "Damn Yankees" siren
- 40 Materialize
- 41 Vatican document
- 42 Culp/Cosby series
- 45 Spoiled
- 46 Foe
- 47 Word form for "view"
- 48 Upscale shop
- 50 "\_ Coming" ('69 song)
- 51 Berg and Drabowsky
- 56 Put on guard
- 57 Be different
- 58 Rapscallion
- 61 Furrow
- 62 Firmament feature
- 63 Rocker Nugent
- 64 Barely there
- 65 "Tosca" tenor
- 66 Problem solvers?
- 68 Sgt. or cpl.
- 69 Cheesemaker's need
- 70 A Karamazov brother
- 71 It's a long story
- 74 Cleopatra's Needle, for one
- 77 Swimmer Gertrude
- 79 Empedocles' last stand?
- 80 Lose luster
- 81 Robust

- 82 Taco topping
- 84 Landed
- 85 Gin flavoring
- 86 Round of applause
- 90 Cook in a cauldron
- 92 Exist
- 93 Gets back
- 94 Maine town
- 95 Burmese statesman
- 96 You can retire on it
- 100 More nervous
- 101 Tape-deck button
- 102 Actress Adoree
- 103 "As You Like It" setting
- 105 Couple
- 107 Unrestrained
- 108 '52 Winter Olympics site
- 109 Tyrant
- 110 Detect
- 111 Blind as \_
- 112 Radius' sidekick?
- 113 Sinn \_
- 115 Hua's predecessor
- 116 "I kid you \_"
- 117 \_ du Diable
- 118 Combine
- 119 Mexican Mrs.
- 120 Part of UPI

Answer Page 7

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18		
19							20					21						22				
23							24					25						26				
27							28					29						30				
				31	32				33	34	35						36					
37	38	39					40								41	42						
43							44							45					46	47	48	
49						50	51							52				53				
54						55						56	57	58				59				
				60	61					62								63				
64	65	66			67					68					69	70	71			72		
73				74						75					76				77			
78						79	80	81						82					83	84	85	86
87						88								89				90				
91					92					93	94	95	96					97				
					98					99							100					
101	102	103								104						105						
106							107	108	109						110					111	112	113
114						115						116	117	118					119	120		
121						122						123					124					
125						126						127					128					



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

**LEGALS**

**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:  
  
**POLICE AND SECURITY UNIFORMS**  
**CSP NO. 199-0911-0388**  
**THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 2003, AT 2:30 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-9/04/03

**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:  
  
**SUNSCREEN CANOPIES**  
**CSP NO. 199-0912-0393**  
**FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 2003, AT 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-9/04/03/03

**BUSINESS PROSPECT**  
  
Need extra income? Use the Internet? We just might have what you're looking for. Call 852-3235 for area representative.

**HELP WANTED**  
  
National pharmacy referral service now hiring home telephone workers nationwide. Lead generators, recruiters, sales, and management positions. Interview now at 773-379-4645. 100% legitimate training provided.

**LOCATION WANTED**  
  
MEETING HALL TO SEAT 80 in the

**SERVICES**

**FLAT ROOF FLOURDING?**  
Foam It!  
(915) 355-FOAM (3626)  
Inverse Coatings  
www.inversecoatings.com

**“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring”**  
**JIFFY GLASS REPAIR**  
Windshield Repair Specialists  
By appt. at your home or office:  
R.V. Dick  
Harshberger  
**915-852-9082**

**SELF-HELP**  
  
Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

**WATER SYSTEMS**  
  
The importance of clean water becomes more obvi-

**RENTALS**

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.

**WESTSIDE AREA**

between Canutillo and UTEP. Must have refrigerated air conditioning and bathrooms for both men and women. Looking for safe, attractive location with parking. Small storage area and kitchen facilities preferred. Will commit to long-term leasing arrangement. Call Bob, 584-5396.

**BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR**

Domestic and Foreign  
852-3523  
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

**HORIZON CITY PLUMBING**  
**852-1079**  
• Electric roofer service for sewers and drains  
• Appliance installation  
• Many other plumbing services  
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

**ANTHONY**

From Page 1

partnership with Vinton and Canutillo on a consultant who would propose improvements in the quality of service in the Upper Valley communities.  
• Eduardo Casillas was

**SUIT**

From Page 8

described an additional \$9 per month fee, which was undisclosed, as a monthly membership fee payable for a year. Many consumers had this membership fee deducted from their checking accounts several times a month.  
The telemarketers instructed dissatisfied consumers to return the mailed kits unopened to the company to get a refund. This also proved deceptive because consumers later were told that the company would

**APPROVED AND SWORN IN**

as a member of the Anthony Police Department. One officer, Martin Balderama, was terminated. Probationary officer Jaime Rodriguez was approved as a full-time policeman. The total strength of the department is now nine — seven officers, one detective and the chief of police.

**MAKE ONLY A 75 PERCENT REFUND**

, but also require consumers to show proof of credit denial from at least four credit card companies.  
The Attorney General sued the company for numerous violations of the Texas Telephone Solicitation Act, the state Finance Code and the Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The suit seeks to halt these unlawful activities, and provide for restitution for harmed consumers, penalties, court costs and attorneys' fees. The company also failed to register as a telemarketer or execute a bond with the Texas Secretary of State, as required.

Beware those sneaky teens

By Don Flood

Parents, don't get taken in. A recent poll of American teens purportedly found: "Hanging out with parents is cool."

Right. When you were a teen, did you think it was cool to hang out with your parents?

You don't remember? My point exactly. Oh, I know what you're thinking: "But it's different nowadays. I'm much cooler than my parents."

Hah! Parents have thought this from the beginning of recorded time, even before television.

Did you know that one of the earliest cave paintings, found in the south of France, depicts a "groovy" cave dad modeling what he thinks are the coolest saber-toothed-tiger-skin boxers, while behind his back cave teens are laughing their heads off at him?

It's true! OK, it's not true, but imagine how perfectly it would illustrate my point if it were.

But, you ask (I know you like a book), what would teens have to gain by pretending to enjoy hanging out with the parents?

Here's the harsh truth. They want us to become complacent so that they can implement their ultimate plan — which is to Take Over the World.

Yes, you read it here first, folks. Today's teens are bent on nothing less than World Domination, the result being a Presidential Administration where all the senior officials — including the Secretary of Defense — sport eyebrow and bellybutton rings and a Supreme Court where the justices dispense with robes and show off their bare midriffs!

It's already happening, but first an important digression.

Today's fashions have taken a terrible toll on National Geographic, the magazine whose stock

in trade for years has been photos of primitive tribes subjecting themselves to all sorts of torture just to stay in fashion.

This month's issue features a story on a "mysterious tribe," complete with a cover photo showing a young man with all sorts of implements pierced into his nose, lips, eyes, etc.

The intent, obviously, is to shock the reader into a reaction something like, "Wow, how can those people subject themselves to such excruciating pain?"

Unfortunately for National Geographic, the 1950s ended some ago.

The reaction of many parents, who can see far stranger get-ups at the local mall, would be, "I hope my daughter meets a nice young man like that."

And now back to my regularly scheduled rant.

You think eventual world takeover by today's teens sounds unlikely?

Consider these shocking statistics recently uncovered by the Baby Boomers Think Tank.

Today's teens, they found, are between the ages of 12 and 20.

But what demographers — experts who study population trends — have discovered is that in just two decades these same "kids" will be between 32 and 40!

It is further expected that many will go on to their 40s and 50s, the age of today's Boomers.

They will expect to take the Boomers' place in society, though they are fully aware that Boomers, with the help of facelifts and Botox, plan to cease aging and remain right where they are.

That's why they're being nice to us. They want us to let our guard down.

Don't let them do it!

To paraphrase a slogan from our earlier days, "Don't trust anyone under 20!"

(c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.



# AG files suit over practices of U.S. Credit of Houston which may have affected thousands

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has announced a court action to freeze bank and other assets of U.S. Credit of Houston and its head corporation e-Telemation Inc. The lawsuit cites the company for the unlawful telemarketing practice of persuading consumers to disclose private financial information when they called an advertised toll-free number. The company promised fast, guaranteed credit card approvals using this information, none of which transpired. Yet they still debited consumers' bank accounts to collect "fees." Also named in the lawsuit are U.S. Credit directors Michael C. Corbell and Robert F. Leaumont Jr.

The company advertised its services in various newspapers and mail circulars nationwide, soliciting consumers with guaranteed credit card approvals and \$10,000 credit limits via a toll-free telephone number.

When consumers called this number, company telemarketers would convince them the quick approval process would be contingent upon their providing private financial information, such as checking account numbers and bank routing numbers. If consumers questioned the need for giving this information, telemarketers allegedly responded that the company needed a means of verifying that these callers actually own a bank account, but then assured them their accounts would not be debited.

The company then allegedly made unauthorized withdrawals of \$99 each from these checking accounts, even from consumers who had decided not to participate during the initial phone call.

In return for this unlawful account debit, the company then mailed many consumers what amounted to a credit card kit consisting of a list of companies and banks with which they might apply for credit. Consumers never obtained a single credit card from the company, as advertised.

When these deceived consumers complained that the unlawful account debits and the credit card kits amounted to unkept business agreements, company representatives would remind them that taped phone conversations proved the consumers made specific agreements. Many telemarketing agents allegedly laughed at consumers, used profanity or disconnected the calls.







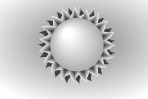
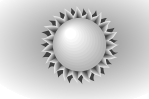
When pressed, the telemarketers described the \$99 debit as an administrative processing fee, and

See SUIT, Page 7

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Partly sunny.	Clear to partly cloudy.	A mix of clouds and sunshine.	Clouds and sun; perhaps a late-day thunderstorm.	Sunshine and a few clouds.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Plenty of sunshine.
▲ 88°	▼ 62°	▲ 86° ▼ 64°	▲ 88° ▼ 66°	▲ 88° ▼ 66°	▲ 88° ▼ 66°	▲ 90° ▼ 68°	▲ 92° ▼ 68°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

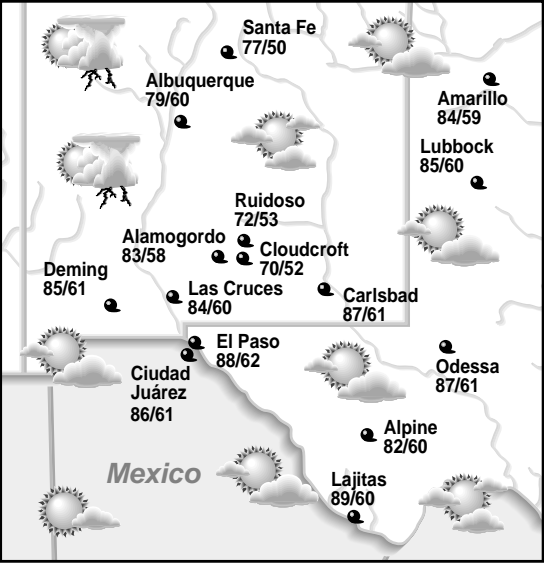
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	85	62
Canutillo	86	63
Clint	85	62
E. Montana	88	62
Fabens	85	62
Horizon	86	63
San Elizario	82	60
Socorro	87	61
Tornillo	85	62
Vinton	86	63

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	79/60/pc	80/60/pc	82/60/pc	82/59/pc	82/57/pc
Atlanta	83/66/c	82/64/pc	81/65/c	83/65/pc	83/65/s
Atlantic City	78/65/t	75/60/c	78/60/pc	75/60/pc	78/58/s
Austin/San Antonio	90/64/pc	92/62/pc	92/65/pc	90/65/pc	92/69/s
Baltimore	84/66/t	78/62/pc	78/58/pc	82/60/s	80/60/s
Boston	78/64/t	72/60/c	70/60/pc	74/60/pc	74/59/s
Chicago	68/52/pc	74/54/s	76/58/s	78/57/s	76/57/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	90/66/s	93/65/s	90/66/s	88/67/pc	88/67/s
Denver	82/57/pc	77/56/pc	80/55/pc	77/55/c	80/51/pc
Flagstaff	77/48/t	77/48/pc	75/48/pc	73/43/pc	73/39/s
Houston	88/70/pc	90/69/pc	89/68/pc	89/67/pc	87/67/pc
Kansas City	78/56/s	80/57/s	80/56/s	79/59/s	80/57/pc
Las Vegas	98/78/pc	98/76/s	96/74/s	95/72/s	95/70/s
Miami	88/78/c	90/77/pc	90/78/pc	90/79/pc	90/78/c
Minneapolis	74/52/s	76/54/s	78/56/s	77/55/s	76/55/s
New Orleans	90/73/pc	87/70/pc	87/70/pc	88/72/pc	88/72/s
New York City	77/66/t	76/64/pc	74/65/pc	80/66/s	78/65/s
Philadelphia	82/68/t	78/64/pc	78/64/pc	82/66/s	80/65/s
Phoenix	103/81/pc	100/80/pc	99/80/pc	99/77/s	101/73/s
Portland	86/60/s	84/58/s	80/58/pc	70/55/c	73/50/c
San Francisco	76/56/pc	76/58/pc	73/58/pc	73/58/c	73/52/s
Seattle	80/56/s	76/56/pc	72/54/c	68/53/c	69/48/c
Tucson	98/72/pc	94/72/pc	94/72/pc	96/70/s	96/68/s
Washington, DC	83/68/t	78/66/pc	78/64/pc	82/66/s	82/65/s

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

shop·vac<sup>®</sup>

Wet/Dry Vacs...  
Not just for the workshop.



Multi-Purpose Nozzle

► Carpet/Bare Floors



Crevice Tool

► Hard-to-Reach Spots



Round Brush

► Kitchen



Collection Bag

► Efficient Filtration for Easy Clean Up



Quiet Operation

Redesigned motor provides the quietest operation of any wet/dry vac.



Blower Port

Instantly converts vac to powerful blower



TRUETRAC<sup>™</sup>

Anti-Tip Design



Deluxe Tool Storage



LOCK ON<sup>™</sup> HOSE

Available Only At

LOWE'S

Improving Home Improvement<sup>®</sup>

shop·vac<sup>®</sup>

the Original wet/dry vac

Come and see the complete line of the #1-selling brand of wet/dry vacs, filters and accessories.

www.shopvac.com

Shop-Vac<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Shop-Vac Corporation.

If It Doesn't Say Shop·Vac,  
Keep Shopping!<sup>®</sup>

www.lowes.com

©2003 Lowe's<sup>®</sup> Home Centers, Inc. Lowe's<sup>®</sup> and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. For the Lowe's nearest you call 1-800-44-LOWES. Prices may vary if there are market variations.



Bonus Accessories for in-home use! \$23.99

\$59<sup>00</sup>

10 Gallon, 4.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #215728