**NEWSBRIEFS**

**A few ugly dogs**
Calling all ugly dogs—and pretty ones, too—to compete in the Kid’s Dog Show at the annual St. Luke’s Country Fair in the Upper Valley on Saturday, Oct. 11. Beginnings are 10 a.m. For registration of $1, your dog — and child — can participate in the “Kid’s Only” Parade, the Ugly Dog Contest, the Media Personality Dog Show and contests for Best Frisbee Dog, Best Retrieving Dog and Best Trick Dog. Other activities at the Country Fair include an antique car show, a pie eating contest, live entertainment, a rummage sale, sandwich and bake sale, petting zoo, and at 5 p.m., the Battle of the Bands. Everyone is invited. For more information call Sarah at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, local from El Paso, at (505) 874-3972, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**A few good horses**
The Mission Valley Saddle Club will host a riding show on Sunday, Sept. 14, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Poki Roni Ranch, 8409 Bowers. Four categories of beginner to advanced, in both English and Western styles of riding will be in competition. Admission is free for spectators—for information on registration call Miriam Gandara at 3074 or 593-5336. To reach the Poki Roni Ranch, turn east on Eastwood off of North Lopez Rd. (near the intersection of Lee Trevino) and then make a right on Bowers.

**In other news**
- Socorro school district is remembering Sept. 11 with a slate of memorial activities at various campuses beginning as early as Sept. 8. Call your local campus for specific information. A candlelight vigil will begin around 7:45 p.m. at theistrict administration building or the SISD Communications Office at 937-0280.
- Bragging rights as to who has the best chiles grown in the Southwest will be determined at the San Antonio Pan American Grande Chile War Festival, to be held at Speaking Rock Entertainment Center. Sponsored by the El Paso Mission Trail Association, the festival will feature live entertainment from top performing groups and Native American dancers from surrounding regions. The Hispanic Farmers Association will roast the long greens for purchase. A hotly contested Chile cook-off will be judged. Hours are noon to midnight Saturday and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. Call 534-0630 or 276-6225 for further details.
- Get ready for higher gas bills. The Texas Gas Service, formerly Southern Union Gas Co., says that customers can expect September gas bills to be 15 percent higher than those in August, and those don’t look much brighter for the colder months ahead. TGS spokesman Pete Patraz said the cost of gas is a market-driven commodity and is a pass-through cost, meaning TGS makes no profit.

See BRIEFS, Page 4

**San Eli NIROTC cadets learn leadership skills at Camp Bullis**

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

CAMP BULLIS — There were no potato sack races, no roasting marshmallows or birdhouses to carve. Instead, these cadets ran, sweatered and endured humid weather and high heat. They pushed themselves to the limit, performing exercises under watchful eyes and against the mad ticks of a stopwatch in an effort not only to better their physical selves, but to better their mental selves.

All of the cadets selected individuals to belong to the San Elizario High School NIROTC. Judging by the program’s many accomplishments, one would never guess that this group is only in its third year of existence.

“When we place above schools that have more experience, it makes us feel proud,” said Miriam Gandara, a senior who has been a part of the NIROTC program since it began during the 2001 school year.

Eguade was one of four cadets to attend a June Leadership Academy at Camp Bullis in San Antonio. Joining her were Cadet Lieutenants Antonio Tarragoo, Filiberto Carrillo, and Michael Ponce. "Raymond Tarango ran out 180 highly motivated Cadets at Leadership Academy," said Col. Roy Gray, who runs the NIROTC Program at San Elizario High School along with Chief Manuel Jaquez. "Raymond ran a 7:50 mile and a half in very hot and humid weather. Michael Ponce was a distinguished Cadet at Leadership," he said. "All leadership academy Cadets are upper classmen who have already attended Basic Leadership or the old Boot Camp. From the moment the four woke up to the time they hit lights out, these four cadets worked hard, according to Eguade.

"We’d wake up, do PT (Physical Training), eat breakfast, drill, eat lunch, go to class, drill, hit the showers and then sleep," she said. More than the physical challenges to the camp for Eguade was the mental aspects. The 16-year-old senior said she learned how to be a better leader and has a more solid idea of what a real leader in.

“I became a better leader,” she said. "The whole experience changed my mind about what a leader is. I believed a leader was someone who gave orders and led by example. At the camp, I learned how to take the best characteristics from each person and then use those characteristics for the team’s advantage.

Eguade is looking forward to applying these leadership skills with her fellow San Elizario cadets, nine of which volunteered for a July Basic Leadership Training at Camp Swift in Austin. According to Col. Roy Gray, every cadet from San Elizario volunteered for the camp, as was the case for Leadership Academy. It was at Basic Leadership Training where several San Elizario cadets were able to distinguish themselves.

"Armando Unzueta, a junior, was chosen the most outstanding athlete amongst the 400 BLT Cadets," Gray said. "Jorge Ortiz was the most improved Cadet amongst the 400."

Joining Eguade and Ortiz was Alex Alejandro, Robert Barrajas, Edgar Torres, Brandon Wiseman, Jorge Ortiz, Jessica Gomez, Peter Jacobo, and Eddie Antunez. Although he succeeded at the BLT by being named most outstanding athlete, Unzueta’s participation in the NIROTC in general has had a great impact on his life.

"I didn’t care before," said the junior, who works at a mechanic’s shop. "I could basically just do whatever I wanted. Now, I have more respect, more discipline. I think about what I’m going to do."

Eguade and Unzueta are just two cadets comprised of what Col. Gray calls the “the Leadership of the NIROTC in San Elizario.”

"All of these Cadets are now the Leadership for NIROTC,” Gray said. "All are outstanding Cadets far advanced over those that did not choose to go. Technically and motivationally, they are the cream of NIROTC.”

**Socorro completes annexation of I-10 area, approves controversial rezoning**

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — What has been a long time goal for the City of Socorro has finally come to fruition according to an announcement made by the regularly scheduled council meeting on Sept. 4.

Attorney Rudy Mata, who has been working on an annexation plan for the City of Socorro to take in the lower portion of Horizon Blvd. at I-10.

Some of the businesses located in the annexed area include the Petro Truck Stop and Restaurant and other trucking entities. This rezoning was expected to boost the tax base for the City of Socorro. Mata said there are various reasons for cities to apply for rezoning, one of which is to control the area growth and to have a better say on land issues. Another reason for annexation is to improve and enhance their coffers, he said.

In relation to another land issue, about eight months ago, the rezoning of the corner of Buford and Nicolas Road from agricultural use to residential caused quite a stir with several community members at the regularly scheduled meeting on January 2, 2003. At that time council voted against the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Once again, at the council meeting on Sept. 4, 2003, Planning and Zoning made a recommendation to rezone the same area from agricultural use to upscale residential development instead of the previous recommendation from the P-Z 4-3 which would have allowed for higher density residential housing.

A repeat of the controversy occurred as at the previous meeting.

Ernie Valdez, representing Carefree Land L.P., made a presentation to council address the rezoning issue and gave his support for the rezoning for eight months ago. Valdez said the area would be a gated community and would consist of only 35 homes averaging 2,000 square feet in size. The cost for these homes would be between $15,000 and $179,000. He said this would bring in an additional $30,000 to $40,000 in property tax to the city.

Valdez also mentioned that a traffic study had been made and that the traffic would only increase an additional 350 to 385 vehicles per 24 hours.

There were several residents present who were opposed to the gated community. Mrs. Marta Loyola, concerned citizen, presented an emphatic power point presentation what this gated community would do to Socorro. Part of her concerns included the decrease of agricultural land and also the inability of the current law enforcement and emergency medical services to serve the current city population, much less the increase of new homes.

City Rep. Chito Bowling said he was concerned about what this would do to the safety of the children walking to school by increasing the traffic.

After almost two hours of discussion, council members approved the recommendation from Planning and Zoning by a margin of 2-2 with Mayor Irma Sanchez breaking the tie in favor of approving the rezoning.

The two opposing votes were City Rep. Joe Ramirez and Bowling. The two votes in favor of the recommendation were City Rep. Gloria Rodriguez and Sam Brewster. City Rep. Gary Gandara was not present at the meeting.

**Clint teacher named top educator in the region**

MOST EXCELLENT EDUCATOR — On Aug. 29, at the Region 19 ESC “Shining Stars” banquet to recognize Teachers of the Year from regional school districts, Mrs. Irma Zepeda from Clint Independent School District was selected as the Region 19 ESC Secondary Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Zepeda has been teaching for 16 years and currently teaches social studies at Clint Junior High. When asked what is the most important lesson learned while teaching Mrs. Zepeda says, “With all the responsibility and work that we have in a school day, you can still find time to laugh and connect with kids on a personal level.”

As Teacher of the Year for the Region, her message will be that teaching is an honorable and rewarding profession. Clint ISD is very proud to have Mrs. Zepeda represent the district and Region 19, school officials said.

Contributed by Laura Cadle
The day the world didn’t end

It’s been two years today, the date of this publishing, since the sky fell on New York.

The world didn’t end. Most of us went on living — eating, talking, cheating and stealing, serving, healing and breathing.

Life went on.

A few days ago the remains of the last man unburied of the 343 or so who rushed in when others fled was laid to rest. They buried him almost figuratively, since all they had to represent his physical body was a tiny vial of blood stored for other purposes before his death.

The family of Michael Ragusa, who died at age 29, tried to lay to rest the life of a man cut short in the line of duty. They tried to shore up the hole left in their lives. Their world didn’t end, either, though I expect at times they felt as if it could.

There will be a formal ceremony today at Enor Middle School to honor the people we call “first responders.” The policemen, the firefighters, the EMTs and the paramedics. It’s a good thing to remember and honor people who take it upon themselves to make a career out of courage.

Some do it well. Some don’t.

But since they do it, the rest of us don’t have to, and that’s worth a moment of silence — for those who didn’t have to, and that’s worth a moment of silence — for those who were brave and honor people who take it upon themselves to make a career out of courage.

Still, the best of us were in one place at one time. There’s been recent controversy over whether the airliner that went down in Pennsylvania was deliberately crashed by the passengers or by the hijackers.

I say it doesn’t matter. I don’t think anyone wanted to crash. All that matters is we got through it and the people saw to it that the plane never came out of the shadows and they weren’t ghosts at all, but flesh and blood carriers of a deadly disease called hatred.

If we could ask them, though, they wouldn’t call it that. They’d call it holiness, righteousness, and justice. They wouldn’t even consider that it’s insanity to plan, train, sacrifice and prepare for yours and one bloody moment in which you may snuff out thousands of lives.

A moment in which their world ended.

But not for the rest of us. We went on living, eating, talking, planning, cheating and stealing. We handed away the mind-boggling mess left in their bloody wake, retrieved body parts from incredible distances, sifted and sorted with diligence through the rubble, stood at attention through countless funerals — then fought and argued with each other over what would fill the empty space left behind.

Nature abhors a vacuum.

So we went on buying and selling and making profit. Some enterprising folks saw disaster as opportunity and filed false claims for death, injury and loss they never suffered. One guy provided inadequately-trained search dogs to the government in the wake of the disaster. He says his recent fraud conviction is simply the result of ill-will from jealous competitors.

Life went on.

So we went on buying and selling and making profit. Some enterprises grew out of the rubble, stood at attention through countless funerals — then fought and argued with each other over what would fill the empty space left behind.

Nature abhors a vacuum.

The world didn’t end, either, though I expect at times you felt as if it could.

But not for the rest of us. We went on living, eating, talking, planning, cheating and stealing.

See END, Page 7

Medicare needs the right changes

The Medicare program was established in 1965, providing federal health insurance coverage to millions of American senior citizens and people with disabilities. Today, there are over 75,000 Medicare beneficiaries in El Paso County alone.

In the nearly four decades since the Medicare program was created, there have been tremendous advances in medicine, particularly in prescription drugs.

Today, prescription drugs are an essential part of healthcare. We have lifesaving medicines to treat many illnesses, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Unfortunately, the cost of these drugs is more than many older Americans can afford. Some seniors even have to choose between buying groceries and buying their needed medication.

Congress is working on legislation to provide prescription drug coverage under Medicare. In June, the House passed the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act by a single vote. The Senate passed its version of the bill in July.

I strongly support providing prescription drug coverage under Medicare — but I could not support the House-passed bill, because it falls far short of providing a meaningful Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Prescription drug coverage must be affordable and comprehensive, available to all Medicare beneficiaries, and must not undermine the existing Medicare system. The House bill fails on all three counts.

First, the bill fails to set a cap on the premium that beneficiaries would pay for their prescription drug coverage each month. Some have estimated that the premium would be $35 per month, but that really is just a guess. In fact, the premium could be much higher and likely will vary in different areas of the country.

Second, the bill also has serious gaps in coverage that would force seniors to pay monthly premiums while receiving no assistance with their drug costs.

Second, the bill fails to make certain that a stable drug benefit will be available in all parts of the country. The bill relies on private insurance companies to provide the prescription drug coverage, and if an insurance company fails to make a profit in a particular community, it could pull out of the area. There is no mechanism in the bill for the federal government to step in and provide Medicare prescription drug coverage directly.

Finally, rather than helping to ensure the long-term viability of Medicare, the bill includes a provision that would make the traditional Medicare program for doctor and hospital visits compete with private insurance plans by 2010. This competition would encourage privatization of the entire Medicare program.

I supported an alternative bill that would have provided more affordable, comprehensive Medicare prescription drug coverage, while also preserving the Medicare program.

Regrettably, that bill was not considered by the House.

Currently, congressional leaders are working out the differences between the House and Senate-passed bills. El Paso’s senior citizens — and seniors across America — deserve the best prescription drug benefit possible.
Socorro ISD mourns the death of influential educator Dr. Sue Shook

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — One of the founders of the modern Socorro Independent School District died after a long illness Aug. 31. Dr. Sue Shook had been SISD’s assistant superintendent for instruction and strategic planning before her June 2003 retirement. She had also lectured part-time at the University of Texas at El Paso. A memorial service was held Aug. 4.

Dr. Shook — originally from Sweetwater, Texas — began her Socorro career in 1974 as a teacher. During her Socorro career she had been instrumental in the District’s accomplishments in year-round schooling, leadership academies for teacher and administrators, and in the implementation of bond issues and facilities to keep pace with the District’s rapid growth. Dr. Shook was an invited speaker for education seminars in Germany and the United Kingdom. She was elected to the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame in March 2003 and was also a recipient of the YWCA’s REACH Award presented to notable El Paso women.

She received her doctorate in education from the University of Texas at El Paso during the 2000 graduation ceremonies and additionally was recognized by the university’s Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations for “Outstanding Academic Achievement at the Doctoral Level.”

Shook’s leadership was recognized nationally in 1996 when she was elected president of the National Association for Year-Round Education; she had been the Texas chapter president for 1993 of the National Association for Year-Round Education.

Dr. Shook and her husband Joe Bob Shook, one of the SISD’s Area Executive Directors, were married for 38 years. The family has requested that, instead of flowers, contributions be made to the American Cancer Society.


September 11 remembered

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

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

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

In the following days, we committed ourselves to doing whatever it took to respond. The President focused like a laser beam on the effort to eliminate those on the other side of the world who were responsible. This tragedy showed the strength of our country. Our nation’s leaders told us to go on with our lives and we did. We resumed our regular schedules as best we could… tending to our children, shopping, going to football games… and becoming reacquainted with our friends and family to once again understand what’s really important.

Here in Washington there are many of us who remain focused on the fundamentals that preserve our way of life. Strengthening our military, our intelligence operations, our federal agencies that watch our ports and law enforcement officials. It will also implement passenger and baggage screening, highway and air security, and training, as well as modernizing our nation’s borders.

Our nation has made great strides since September 11, 2001. On this important date, I encourage everyone to remember the past so as to make us stronger in the future. We will never forget September 11. Today we should feel proud that this generation, like those past, is every bit as committed to doing whatever it takes to preserve freedom, justice and the American Way.

2003 PROPERTY TAX RATES

The Town of Clint Small Taxing Unit Notice

The Town of Clint will hold a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 19, 2003 at the Clint Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd. to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2003. The proposed tax rate is $.375500 per $100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the Town of Clint by 8%.

WTCC: 09/11/03
NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE
2003 Property Tax Rates in the Lower Valley Water District

This notice concerns 2003 property tax rates for the Lower Valley Water District. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. The year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:
- Last year’s operating taxes
- Last year’s debt taxes
- Last year’s total taxes
- Last year’s tax base
- Last year’s total tax rate

This year’s effective tax rate:
- Last year’s adjusted taxes
- Last year’s adjusted tax base
- This year’s effective operating rate
- This year’s effective maximum operating rate
- This year’s debt rate
- This year’s rollback rate

Statutory Statement of Increase/Decrease
If the Lower Valley Water District adopts a tax rate equal to the effective rate of $2,607.50 per $100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2002 taxes by $65,942.

SCHEDULE A
Uncencumbered Fund Balances
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Property</th>
<th>Tax Fund Balance</th>
<th>Maintenance &amp; Operation (M&amp;O)</th>
<th>Debt Service (ISD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0-</td>
<td>$0-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHEDULE B
2003 Debt Service
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Debt</th>
<th>Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes</th>
<th>Other Adjustments to be Paid</th>
<th>Total Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 A</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>57,388</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>97,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 B</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>57,448</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>107,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 C</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,080</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 D</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>39,325</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>69,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 E</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>49,875</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>84,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 F</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>57,448</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>112,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 G</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>52,044</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>101,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 H</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>12,080</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 I</td>
<td>63,000</td>
<td>103,678</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>166,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 J</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>19,055</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 K</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>32,921</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>58,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 98 L</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>32,023</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series 2000 A</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>131,717</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>195,717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total required for 2003 debt service: $1,152,306
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A: 0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources: 0
- Excess collections last year: 0
- Total to be paid from taxes in 2003: 1,152,306
- Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2003: 0
- Total Debt Levy: $1,152,306

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sanjurjo
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: September 2, 2003

Notice of Public Vote on Tax Rate
The City of Socorro conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the City of Socorro by -0- percent on September 4, 2003.

The City of Socorro is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in no tax increase at a public meeting to be held on Thursday, September 18, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1240 Horizon Blvd., Socorro, TX 79927.

WTCC: 09/11/03

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: 09/11/03

Procedures for Voting on Budget
To increase at a public hearing under the provisions of the Texas Education Code, a school district must post its budget for public inspection on or before the date of the public hearing. The budget presented at the public hearing must be based on the district’s approved tax rate. A school district must also provide a copy of the budget to the local taxing unit at least 20 days before the date of the public hearing.

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

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WTCC: 09/11/03

Briefs
From Page 1

profit on it. However, he does urge customers to take advantage of the ABC Plan, which allows customers to spread the high cost of gas during the winter months over the rest of the year. Call 562-8411 for information or log on at www.texas.com.

The next meeting of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. in El Paso. The El Paso Water Utilities - Public Service Board will be hosting the meeting at the Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant. A tour of the facility will be held prior to the meeting, and details of the tour will follow with the agenda and other meeting backup materials.

Girl Scouts, their families and family-oriented members of the public can enjoy Western Playland Sunday, Sept. 4 from 1-8 p.m. during Girl Scout Day at the amusement park. Ticket discounts are available on passes purchased before Sept. 18. Free activities for youth will be sponsored by the Rio Grande Girl Scouts. Call 566-9433 for information or stop by 9700 Girl Scout Way.

Clint High School is accepting nominations for the 2003 Outstanding Ex-Student. Homecoming Week is Oct. 6-10, and nominees should be able to attend a portion of the festivities. Qualifications include receiving a diploma from Clint High at least 10 years ago. Applications are available at the front office of Clint High School and should be submitted by Sept. 26. Call 851-2344 for information.

Socorro’s Annual San Miguel Fiesta, a folk art benefit, will be Sept. 27 at the Socorro Mission with a variety of works by local artists featuring the historic structure on display for viewing and purchase. Held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. the event will offer food, beverages and entertainment, with attendance expected to top last year’s 3,500. A work by internationally acclaimed artist Jose Cisneros will be offered in a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will be used to conserve one of this region’s most remarkable historic adobes. Local artists whose work features the Socorro Mission and who would like to participate in this event are asked to contact UTEP Anthropology student Stella Yarbrough or Jean Fulton at 858-4655 or e-mail jeanfulton@earthlink.net.

El Paso Rehabilitation Center will host a seminar on Sept. 20 on Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder in Children. The day-long event begins at 8:30 a.m. with featured speakers in the fields of medicine, education, psychology and mental health. Free parking will be offered behind the meeting.

See BRIEFS, Page 5
location at Providence Memorial Hospital, 2001 N. Oregon, Hilton Tower Auditorium “A.” Registration fee, which includes a light lunch, is $10 before Sept. 17, and $15 thereafter. The seminar is for adults only, and no child care is available at that time. Call Lynda Hernandez at 544-8484 for information.

■ Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have been designated to assist two county organizations address substan-
  tial housing issues in the colonia areas of El Paso County. A grant of $440,000, made to Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario, will help offi-
  cers current housing in the colonias with so-
  lard passive energy efficient ato subdivisions. Alianza para Del Desarrollo Comunitario, Inc., will use their award of $374,321 to bring affordable housing, so-
  cial services and community development activities to the “These grants will be used to address housing problems in El
  Paso County. HUD’s investment in El Paso will expand housing opportunities to those needing assistance,” said Congresswoman Silvestre Reyes.

■ An additional 160 troopers will soon report for duty across the state following their recent graduation from the Texas De-
  partment of Public Safety’s Training Academy in Austin. The troopers from this gradua-
  tion will start filling 170 new trooper positions created by the Legislature. The new trooper positions approved by the Legislature will ultimately translate into greater public traffic enforcement — good

Substantive Statement of the Amendment to the Rules and Regulations

On August 28, 2003, the District’s Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive revision of its existing Rules and Regulations. This notice sets forth the substance of the adopted Rules and a brief factual statement. Although the new rules are a consolidation of various regulations and procedures, they are not intended to alter any legal rights or obligations, but they represent the District’s formalized procedures to be followed to prevent such contamination from entering the District’s public water system as well as the customer’s own water system. The pro-

Chapter 3, Water Related Services, sets forth the conditions for the initiation of water ser-

Chapter 4, Protection of Water Supply, sets forth the requirements for back-flow prevention de-

Chapter 5, Customer Rights and Respon-

Chapter 2, General Provisions, lays out the rules which are generally applicable to all the types of services rendered by the District. It prohibits the free use of any service of the District system and requires that only one meter or one service be pro-

Chapter 1 sets forth the definition of the terms which are used in the new Rules.

Chapter 7, Discontinuance of Service, sets out rules for which service may be discontinued and establishes the time period during which an opportunity for the customer to be heard before ser-

Chapter 8, Extension of Service to New Ar-

The El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District (the “District”) hereby gives notice that it has adopted new Rules Governing the Furnishing and Control of Water and Sewer Services within the District (the “Rules”). Breach of these rules will subject violators to civil penalties of up to $5,000.00, exclusive of interest.

applicable to water service.

When it is necessary to cut paving to make a con-

Chapter 10, Discharges into the Waste-

This summary is intended to put interested parties on notice of the adoption of and the general sub-

Volunteers have their award of $374,321

An additional 160 troopers will soon report for duty across the state following their recent graduation from the Texas Department of Public Safety’s Training Academy in Austin. The troopers from this graduation will start filling 170 new trooper positions created by the Legislature. The new trooper positions approved by the Legislature will ultimately translate into greater public traffic enforcement — good

news for the citizens of Texas and bad news for drunk drivers and other criminals,” said Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. The troopers began the six-month training academy in March. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including ter-

They also received extensive firearms training, self-defense, and physical fitness training.

The troopers from this graduation will start filling 170 new trooper positions created by the Legislature. The new trooper positions approved by the Legislature will ultimately translate into greater public traffic enforcement — good

TTCC: 09/11/03 & 09/18/03

Erich A. Morales
Kemp Smith LLP
General Counsel
El Paso County Tornillo Water Improvement District

WTCC: 09/11/03 & 09/18/03

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pushed around by a little kid — can it get any worse?

By Steve Escayda
Special to the Courier

I've gone some excruciating things in my lifetime, but seldom have I had to endure the torture that I faced for three-and-a-half hours last Saturday night.

Now, in case you don't know it, I cover the UTep Miners for the Associated Press. And ordinarily it's a delightful endeavor. You get to watch a good game, eat some good food, meet some important people, and then write about what you saw.

But last Saturday night I was actually wondering if it was all worth it.

I had to sit and watch a little Division I- AA team, not just defeat the Miners, but actually push the orange and blue all around the field. I went back and read some of Gary Nord's quotes a few days before the game. Quote: "We're just praying hard for them, we're not tak-

ing for granted." That's the kind of thing ordinarily it's a delightful endeavor. You get to watch a good game, eat some good food, meet some important people, and then write about what you saw.

But last Saturday night I was actually wondering if it was all worth it.

We went to a family reunion this weekend, where we talked to family who came together in the small Okla-

homa town — one couple from as far as California — to laugh together.

The Miners had a lot of that this season … and maybe more.

Family members passed around photos and letters … and maybe more.

Family members passed around photos and letters … and maybe more.

There is something very special about a family reunion. Do you, can you imagine what he'll be like a year from now?

How about three years from now? How about when he's playing on Sundays? O.K., calm down, let's not get too far ahead of our-


gelves. But you have to admit, there's an ex-

citement about the Montwood Rams we haven't had about an I- AA team in a while.

The Rams have past the first test, now let's see if they suffer any letdowns.

This season … and maybe more.

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It’s Show Time in California!

By Don Flood

One reason people remain apathetic about government is that, too often, it’s lacking in entertainment value.

We pay a lot in taxes but — with the exception of Bill Clinton — we don’t get much for our entertainment dollars.

But with actor Rob Lowe joining Arnold Schwarzenegger’s campaign for governor of California, it’s clear The Terminator is working to surround himself with a first-rate cast.

The following are some entertainers — and their potential posts — that Schwarzenegger should consider for his administration:

Science and Technology Adviser

Who else but the First Officer himself, Leonard Nimoy? Nimoy would bring even more credibility to this position of the agreed-to wear Dr. Spock’s pointy ears.

Department of Education

— This would be a bold move, but I think Arnold should tap Yoda for Secretary of Education. Yes, Yoda lacks experience with the educational bureaucracy, but he is, foremost, a teacher, and as someone familiar with the Dark Side, he comes well-equipped to deal with the problems facing today’s junior high schools.

California Highway Patrol

— Ever since “CHiPs” went off the air, Erik Estrada has found his acting skills somewhat under-utilized. He could bring a little star power to this department, especially if he were team up with his beloved co-star, what’s-his-name.

Bottles Blondes Unit

— Formed in response to a crisis facing the state’s blondes, the BBB has a long and proud history of helping the unattractively fair-haired overcome their moose brown roots. As BBB director, Pamela Anderson would help focus new attention on this agency, especially if she were to conduct press conferences in her bikini.

California Suntan Commission

— Not currently a separate department — its functions are being handled by various state agencies — the CSC could become, under George Hamilton, a powerful force for better looks through better sun tanning.

Department of Aging — This one’s a toss-up between Dick Clark and Cher, with the edge going to Clark since, at age 157, he’s a full six years older than Cher.

California Dreamin’ Board

— Formed not long after the classic song by the Mamas and Papas, the CDB later morphed into a night-club as the ‘60s ended and everyone forgot why it was created in the first place.

Arnold’s choice: Eliminate the department or send in Clint Eastwood to wake everybody up.

The TV Fitness Gadgets Authority — With Suzanne Somers leading the way, California might finally become — as Gov. Gray Davis himself promised — the first state to make Thighmaster the Official State Fitness Gadget.

State Police Superintendent(s)

— Arnold can’t go wrong with this one. He could name Peter Falk of “Columbo” or David Soul of “Starsky & Hutch” or, if he really wants to make a statement about getting tough on crime, the entire cast of “Charlie’s Angels.”

Adam West and Burt Ward of “Batman” might also be available for special crime-fighting assignments, assuming California still has a functioning Batgirl.

California Highway Patrol — Getting California’s fiscal house in order is going to call for some tough measures. The Terminator may have to keep this job for himself.

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: My father came to this country in 1996 when he was 56. He went to work almost immediately, but died just a few months ago. Will my 61-year-old mother who has never worked before due any Social Security on his record?

A: You should check with your local Social Security office to find out if your father was “insured” for Social Security purposes. Normally, he would have needed 10 years of covered work to be insured for Social Security. However, there are special circumstances that could affect your mother’s eligibility for survivors benefits. Q: I turn 82 this year and plan to retire at the end of July. The problem is the way my company pays me. Even though I will turn in my invoices before I retire, I won’t get paid until several months later. In other words, even though I am retired, I will get paycheck in September, October, and probably November too. I know I can only make a certain amount of money after I retire. Will my company’s payment policy mess up my eligibility for Social Security?

A: No, it won’t. We count earnings in the month they are earned, not the month they are paid. So even though you will get paid after you retire at the end of July, because you earned that money prior to August, you will be due your full Social Security retirement benefit for August and the rest of the year.

Q: I am currently getting a divorced wife’s benefit on my ex-husband’s record. But we’ve recently started living together again. And we’re thinking of getting married again. And we’re thinking of getting married again. Does this change anything for Social Security purposes?

A: In your case, the amount you’d be due as a wife is the same as you’d be due as an ex-wife. So it doesn’t really matter if you’re divorced and living apart or if you’re living together again. And if your ex becomes your ex-ex, in other words, if you decide to get married again, you should let us know so we can update our records. But again, there will be no change in your payment amount.

For more information visit your local Social Security office, see www.ssa.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Amarillo, TX 79103. Social Security Q&A, October, and probably November too.

A: You should check with your local Social Security office to find out if your father was “insured” for Social Security purposes. Normally, he would have needed 10 years of covered work to be insured for Social Security. However, there are special circumstances that could affect your mother’s eligibility for survivors benefits. Q: I turn 82 this year and plan to retire at the end of July. The problem is the way my company pays me. Even though I will turn in my invoices before I retire, I won’t get paid until several months later. In other words, even though I am retired, I will get paycheck in September, October, and probably November too. I know I can only make a certain amount of money after I retire. Will my company’s payment policy mess up my eligibility for Social Security?

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