



NEWSBRIEFS

Garbage rate increase

Due to the recent closing of the Clint landfill, the Horizon Regional Municipal Utility District has raised the monthly charge for trash pick-up. Effective Oct. 1, the rate for twice-a-week pickup became \$15.87. If the closing proves temporary the rates will be reviewed, a district release said. There will be no pickup on Thanksgiving Day for those whose schedule includes Thursday, Nov. 27. Information: 852-3917.

Suspect sought

Tips from anonymous sources are making a difference in the ability of local law enforcement to solve crimes. Since January of 2003, tips to Crime Stoppers have lead to the arrest of 42 suspects, and 56 cases have been solved. Over \$22,000 in property and narcotics have been recovered. One such crime involves the murders two young men found near the Socorro Activities Complex on Aug. 21. Since that time, law enforcement officials say information has lead them to believe these murders were the work of Alex Tapia, a 19 year old Hispanic male, believed to be hiding in Mexico. He is about five feet, 10 inches tall, weighs about 170 pounds, has brown hair and eyes, and a mole on the left side of his chin. Crime Stoppers will pay \$1000 cash reward for information that leads to his arrest. You can remain anonymous bay calling 566-TIPS (8477).

In other news

■ Fall is in the air and a whole new crop of pecans are almost ready. A Pecan Festival is being planned by the First Christian Church, 901 Arizona, for Oct. 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Numerous pecan treats will be available and a Celebrity Chef Pie Competition will be held. Entertainment, games and food are also offered. Call (505) 589-9762 for information, local call from El Paso.

■ Navy Seaman Omar Avila, son of Carmen and Oscar Avila of Fabens, is currently stationed off the coast of the West African nation of Liberia. He is one of more than 4,000 Atlantic Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard ships of the USS Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group. Avila is a 1999 graduate of Fabens High School and joined the Navy in July of that year.

■ Coast Guard Apprentice Abel Flores, son of Maria Flores and 2003 graduate of Socorro High School, recently graduated from U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J. During the eight-week training he completed a vigorous curriculum of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival. He will join the 36,000 other Coast Guard forces.

Political speeches are usually just baloney disguised as food for thought.

— Quips & Quotes

Salas chosen as top teacher by Texas Association for Bilingual Educators

CANUTILLO — “She has a passion for teaching.

“She has a passion for kids.

“She has a passion for life.”

Annette Brigham, principal of Childress Elementary in the Canutillo ISD, is effusive in her praise of Lorena Salas, one of her teachers.

Salas was honored at the district’s September board meeting for her selection as Teacher of the Year by the (TABE). She will be recognized as the state’s outstanding bilingual educator at the association’s November convention in Fort Worth.

“She is absolutely wonderful, very gregarious, very fun-loving and very focused on her work,” says Brigham who added that Salas’ enthusiasm is infectious on others. “She’s always doing things; she is always getting things done. She cares about the whole school.”



Lorena Salas

Echoing Brigham in praising Salas is assistant principal Margarita Porras-Grant who proves the adage that it is a small world. Porras-Grant is the sister of Mary Lou Barreras, the principal of Riverside Elementary School, who gave Salas her first teaching job 11 years ago.

It doesn’t stop there. She had been referred to Riverside Elementary, in Sunland Park in the Gadsden ISD, for a possible job opening by Trinidad Barreras, then principal of Anthony Elementary in the Anthony ISD. Trinidad is the husband of Mary Lou Barreras.

Sitting in her classroom after her third-graders had been dismissed, Salas recalls 11 years ago when she was thrust into the workforce. She was recently divorced and the mother of a then four-year-old son, Alejandro Chacon whom she describes as the “light of my life.” Alejandro is a student at Franklin

High School.

Without experience and armed only with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature from UT El Paso, she first applied at Anthony, referred to Riverside where she taught for seven and a half years. “I am very grateful for her hiring me,” she says. “She must have seen something in me.”

She started out working briefly as a permanent substitute and then in special education. While teaching, she eventually earned her certification as a full-time teacher.

Learning of an opening in the Canutillo school district, she applied for and was accepted as a teacher at Childress in January of 2000.

“I believe in what I do,” adds Salas who, in addition to this year’s honors, was named Region 19 Teacher of the Year in the last school year.

Superintendent Charles Hart sees these accomplishments and honors as a reflection of “her personality and love of teaching. She is an outstanding person.”

Salas talks about the enjoyment she has interacting with kids, and having fun in the process. “Having fun,” she feels, is an important part of the learning process and incorporates it into her teaching style.

She works with her students in a two-way bilingual program where she teaches in Spanish. Satisfaction comes when she sees students transferring knowledge into a second language.

When she isn’t teaching, she can be found working in one of four areas: Coordinator of the Mother-Daughter Program; coordinator of the Spanish Spelling Bee; coordinator of the Winter Festival; and coordinator of the Mother’s Day Festival.

That is not the only source of satisfaction for her.

It comes from her former students who will write to her and tell her how much they liked her. It comes from hugs and the smiles on the faces of her students who remember the fun times they had in her classes.

“Every child is different; every child deserves a quality education,” she says. “Every child learns differently and has to be respected. It’s wonderful working here at Childress. Everybody deserves to be Teacher of the Year.”

She sees learning for all beyond the classroom — looking for the positive side, she sees life itself as “a learning experience.”

Rio Bosque Day: Family fun, fresh air and free

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — There is a 372-acre wildlife refuge within easy driving of every resident of El Paso County and on Saturday, Nov. 1, the community is invited to share in its natural attributes during “A Day at the Bosque” — Rio Bosque Wetland Park.

The variety of birds will be particularly interesting as the wetlands serves as a “stopping place” for numerous types that are currently winging their way to warmer climates where they will winter. The possibilities of siting species rare to this area is heightened this time of year.

Beginning at 9 a.m. there will be guided tours, bird watching, children’s activities and a chili cook-off. Families should bring a picnic lunch and spend the day.

Included will be Eric Kappus, discoverer of the dinosaur tracks in Sun Land Park, giving a lesson to children and adventurous adults in the art of tracking wildlife and recognizing the signs they leave behind.

Texas Master Naturalists will mix up their prize-winning recipes for the gastronomic pleasure of those attending during the chili cookoff. Tasting will be \$1 a cup, proceeds to benefit the park.

Educational displays will be set up to introduce area flora and fauna in the park. Visitors can explore the Rio Bosque at their own pace by walking an easy 1.5 mile nature trail. Knowledgeable guides will be stationed along the trail to point out details and answer questions. A longer trail, about 2.4 miles, will feature guided tours.

Tents with tables and chairs for picnicking, along with restroom facilities, will be available.

Parking will be in the large open area near the entrance to the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant. Signs will be posted along Americas Ave (Loop 375) and Pan American Drive to direct newcomers to

See RIO BOSQUE, Page 4



Rep. Bonilla named Texas agriculture’s man of the year

WEST TEXAS — The Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture award was presented recently in Marathon, Texas by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association to U.S. Representative Henry Bonilla. The award is presented each year to a person who goes “above and beyond the call of duty for Texas Agriculture.”

Bonilla was named Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee in 2001 and has since shepherded millions of dollars to home-district projects that help the Texas agriculture industry.

“Agriculture has been the backbone of Texas since its beginning. From producing crops and livestock, encouraging students to study agriculture, or ensuring that kids have healthy, well-balanced meals, American agriculture af-

fects everyone, everyday of our lives,” said Bonilla. “The future looks bright for agriculture. I am honored to be a part of that future and look forward to ensuring it’s a successful one. The farmers, ranchers and producers of Texas are a special breed. They are hardworking men and women, who I constantly learn from.”

Bonilla has represented the 23rd Congressional District since his first election in 1992 and was the first freshman in 25 years to receive a coveted seat on the Appropriations Committee. In addition to serving as chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Bonilla is also a senior member of the Defense and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Go wash your hands

When I was a kid, the second most common thing my parents said to me, next to “Watch out for snakes,” was “Go wash your hands.”

My hands got real dirty. The second after I washed them they started getting that way because of all the

things I did, touched, felt of, or played with.

It wasn’t any different when I went to school. The little elementary school had a low counter running the length of one wall with a little sink and a big crook-necked faucet, a shiny paper towel dispenser and a glass bowl with a bar of soap in it.

After recess or returning from the bathroom, we knew to stop and splash a little dirty water on the walls and work up a wad of lather on the soap bar.

If we didn’t, we were told to go back and do it.

Kids nowadays aren’t any different. They still get dirty. Everyday, everything they do, touch, feel of or play with gets them dirty.

The only difference is that hand-washing isn’t mandatory anymore.

I was aghast the first time I was in a classroom after the elementary kids filed in from lunch recess. They were watered at the fountain in the hallway and allowed into the boys’ and girls’ bathrooms unattended. The teacher remained in the hallway where she could see both doors. A few minutes later they came out and went into the classroom.

You could tell by looking that few, if any, had washed their hands.

In this classroom there was a little sink not unlike the one in my old classroom. But the students weren’t told to wash up. Instead they went right to their desks.

Later, I asked the teacher about this. She just laughed and said there was no way she could enforce hand washing. She said it took too long, and besides, the kids made too big of a mess.

I wondered how she was going to manage with the time she was going

to lose to sickness, either for herself or her students, just because the simple act of teaching a kid to wash his or her hands was too time consuming.

When my kids were still in public school I could count on their being sick. A lot. Any parent who has spent any time in the classroom knows why. Not only do they not wash their hands but the vast majority seem never to have heard that they should blow their noses on a Kleenex instead of smearing it across their cheeks with their bare hands or their sleeve.

Covering your face when you cough or sneeze has become a thing of the past as well, apparently, because, like hand-washing, the schools have discarded teaching these simple acts of courtesy that could go a long way toward preventing the spread of germs from child to child.

From what I could see, not too many parents were teaching them at home, either.

Somewhere along the line, common sense got expelled from school, though I don’t think it was for misbehavior.

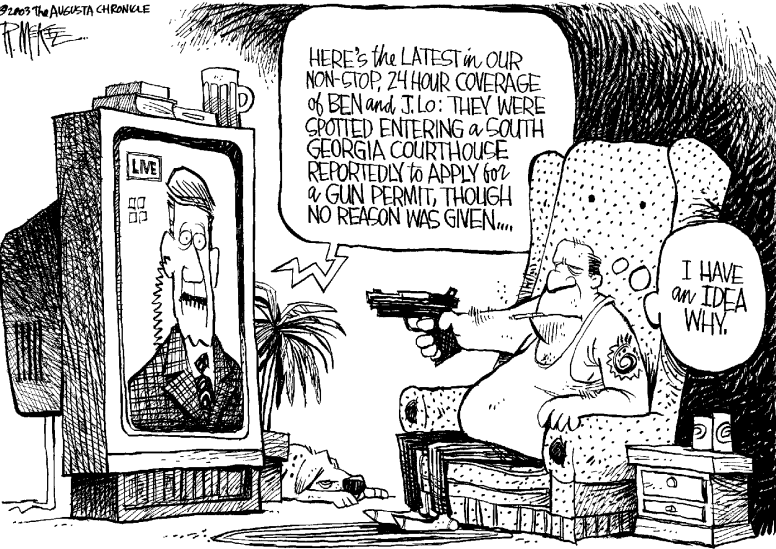
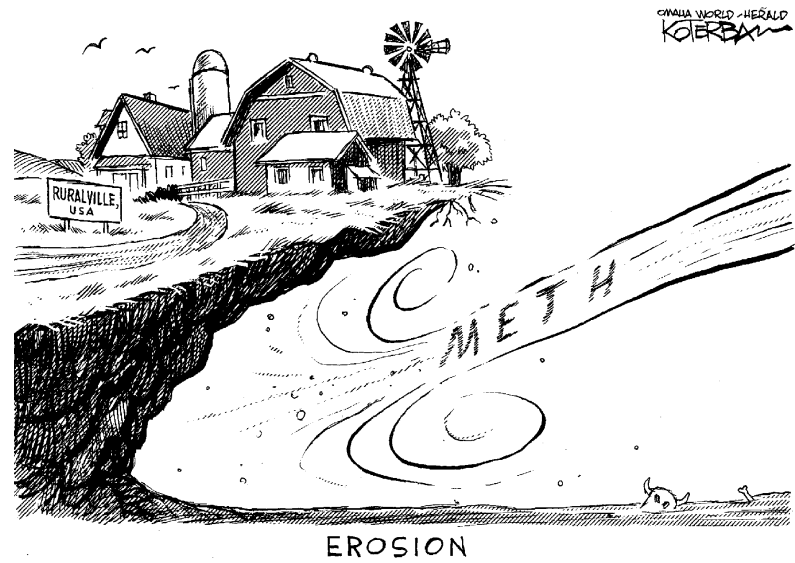
Every teacher, teacher’s aide, administrator or secretary knows that the security of their paycheck is diametrically equivalent to the number of flesh and blood bodies that enter the school door every day — that’s how the state of Texas doles out the dollars, according to the ADA (average daily attendance). Therefore, the pressure is on to see to it that parents get their kids to school every morning.

Oddly enough, however, the public school system doesn’t encourage the practice of sane health practices — like banning high-fat, sugary foods — that would help a parent maintain a healthy kid.

Instead, they make up rules that make no sense.

For instance, everyone knows that unless you have some kind of super-human immune system, it is unlikely you will recover from the common cold in less than three days. However, unless there has been a major change in policy I don’t know about, your

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30 Years

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Cost of fighting terrorism strains local first responders

El Paso’s first responders are on the frontlines of our nation’s homeland security. There is an increased potential for terrorism along the U.S.-Mexico border and El Pasoans have their work cut out for them to keep our community and the nation secure.

While El Paso’s first responders — the policemen, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, doctors, nurses, and public health providers of the El Paso City/County Office of Emergency Management, El Paso and Fort Bliss Fire Departments, El Paso Emergency Medical Service, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, and El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District — have risen to the challenge of protecting El Paso and the border region, funding is tight and demands on their resources and time continue to increase.

The Preparing America to Respond Effectively (PREPARE) Act, of which I am an original co-sponsor,

addresses the increased responsibilities placed on our first responders since Sept. 11, 2001 and provides increased federal leadership regarding homeland security challenges. This bill now has 130 co-sponsors.

The PREPARE Act will create emergency preparedness grants and a task force to assist local and state governments determine their most pressing needs. It will reform the homeland security advisory system and provide grants during periods of heightened threat levels to help offset expanded protection costs. This bill will clarify the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) responsibilities, provide equipment and training standards for first responder equipment, authorize funding for interoperable communications technology, and require the DHS Secretary to create a nationwide emergency notification system.

Grants will be administered through an easy-to-use program. The PREPARE grant program will consist of five-year grants to fund each communities’ needs. All terrorism preparedness grants will be consolidated into one DHS office and the task force created by this Act will help local governments decide which priorities are most important.

“Task Force on Standards for Terrorism Preparedness” will consist of 27 people who represent all first responder disciplines and the DHS. It will identify the “essential capabilities,” such as personnel and equipment, needed at the state and local level and will also create a methodology for state and local governments to determine their specific needs.

The PREPARE Act will also reform the national color-coded threat advisory system so it can issue alerts by geographical area or industry sector, and the DHS Secretary will be required to alert and brief Congress in advance of a threat warning. The DHS Secretary

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View from here

By Brooke Leslie Rollins

Lawsuit reform needed to stop the legal pillage

Thousands of people are out of work. Entire companies have been shut down. The future of the American economy could well hang in the balance.

Not from terrorism or war, shady accounting or corporate malfeasance, but from lawsuits. Specifically, some 250,000 lawsuits filed to date because of ties to asbestos and some illnesses. And although asbestos-linked cancer deaths have been declining since 1992, we are experiencing a rise in the number of lawsuits filed.

A great many of the lawsuits today are filed against companies that never mined asbestos or made asbestos-related products.

More shocking: a great many of those lawsuits are being filed on behalf of people who are not even sick. To date, more than \$54 billion has been paid in damages.

In the trial lawyer circuit, asbestos means one thing: money. And lots of it. That's why it is estimated another 2.5 million lawsuits will be filed before the trial lawyers move on to their next target.

Awards for asbestos-related illnesses have been staggering. Just last year in Mississippi, six individuals were awarded \$25 million each — and none have any symptoms of asbestos-related illness.

It would be nice to think the problem is someone else's, but Texas has become a magnet for court-shopping lawyers looking for big pay-offs. According to one study, Texas is one of five states where two-thirds of all filings occur.

But stepping back, is asbestos a medical problem worthy of legal ac-

tion? It is indeed true some individuals are suffering and dying from asbestos-caused illness. And those individuals should have access to the courts when appropriate, and for amounts that reflect their losses.

Unfortunately, the lawsuit lottery is crowding out the legitimate plaintiffs who deserve compensation for their suffering. The outrageous and nonsensical awards are making it difficult for those with actual cases to get justice.

In one case, some 4,000 plaintiffs were allocated a \$160 million settlement on the basis of how far they lived from the courtroom.

The Texas Legislature had the opportunity earlier this year to help those suffering from asbestos-related illness when Senator Kyle Janek introduced SB 496. His legislation — which passed committee but was not taken up by the full Texas Senate — would have established an "inactive" docket for those wishing to make asbestos claims, but who did not yet have a medical cause. Once the claimant could prove he or she was suffering from an asbestos-related illness, by clear and objective medical evidence subject to verification by an independent medical expert, the claimant's case would have been moved to the active docket and proceeded through the courts.

Such legislation would have gone a long way in reducing the carnival atmosphere surrounding asbestos litigation.

At both the national and state level, sensible lawsuit reform should be quickly implemented to bring a sense of proportionality and decorum to the issue. Those who are not sick should

not be allowed to tie up the courts, and those who are not responsible should not be forced into bankruptcy.

At the federal level, legislation is pending in the Senate to create a national trust fund — not one paid for by taxpayers, but by asbestos makers and their insurers. Funds would be distributed only after a claim has been proven medically valid.

This approach has great merit.

Likewise, action should be taken to reduce the outrageous "punitive" damages. Remember: asbestos was universally considered a safe, or at least manageable, product for many years.

In a 1991 report by a special Ad Hoc Committee of the United States Judicial Conference to the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, it was stated punitive damage recoveries by earlier-filing claimants "threaten fair compensation to pending and future claimants and threaten the economic viability of defendants."

Stated another way: the outrageous awards driving companies out of business today all but ensures future plaintiffs, with legitimate complaints, will not receive the compensation they are due.

Asbestos may have protected homes and businesses from fire, but today it is protecting the Lexus payments of trial lawyers looking to get rich quick. Unless action is taken soon, asbestos litigation will continue to kill thousands of jobs and further weaken our economy.

(Brooke Leslie Rollins is president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. She received her juris doctor from the University of Texas.)

Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Give the gift of life

This time of year is a busy one for all of us. We're finishing up our summer and getting geared up for the fall. As you dash toward the holiday season, I urge you to take time out of your day and donate blood. The need is great, and the few minutes it takes may mean years of life for a sick or injured patient.

The good news is that millions of Americans voluntarily donate blood every year. The bad news is that this is not enough. Did you know that 60 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but only five percent donates each year?

The demand for blood is constantly increasing, and the nation's blood banks are having difficulty keeping up. According to the American Red Cross, the amount of blood needed by hospitals increased more than 15 percent in the past year. Maintaining

an adequate amount of blood for surgeries, trauma victims and treatment of diseases is becoming a year-round problem.

What's worse is that donations traditionally slump this time of year. An outbreak of the flu and bad weather can also affect donations. That means that the demand for blood is higher this time of year than in other months.

In order to avoid a critical shortage, more donors are needed. Donating blood is safe, painless and can save the lives of others. Any individual who is at least 17 years old and weighs 110 pounds or more can donate. Donating blood takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour, including 20 minutes for the actual blood collection. Type "O" blood is the most commonly used because it can be safely transfused to people of all blood types. You can give blood every eight

weeks, but remember that with just one donation you could save a life.

There are many places where donations can be made. Bloodmobiles travel to high schools, colleges, churches, and other community organizations. People can also donate at community blood centers and hospital-based donor centers. Many people donate at blood drives at their workplace. To find out where you can donate, call the national Red Cross hotline at 800-GIVE-LIFE, America's Blood Centers at 888-256-6388, or the American Association of Blood Banks at 866-376-6968.

Every few seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. In the year 2002, make a resolution to give the gift of life: donate blood.



Miss an issue?

www.wtccourier.com

Archives to 2001.

For Sanity's Sake

By Taprina Milburn

She'll thank you

I have to tell you, I hate hospitals. They make me feel awfully guilty for being healthy, and if I stay too long I begin to feel a bit queasy.

But my friend is in the hospital, so lately I've been visiting her. She's working on her sixth week there, and right now she's not doing well. When I see her with all the tubes and needles, the mean person in me can think of at least three other people who deserve to be in that bed instead of my friend.

The last time I talked with her, before she was sedated and put on the respirator, she told me, "Taprina, when I get out of here, I'm going to go to all the churches that have been praying for me, and I'm going to tell them thank you in person."

She smiled, and her blue eyes beamed, and in those few short seconds I saw, for the first time in weeks, the friend I haven't seen in a while — energetic, talkative, crazy about life and children, God and cats, flowers and shoe sales.

I told her that if she were to visit each church — and she will when she can — she will be on a year-long tour from the East Coast to the West Coast.

I don't doubt that God knows what He's doing, but sometimes I like to remind him how unfair this all seems; that it's taking entirely too

long for my friend to bounce back. "Could you hurry up and do something," I tell him. She wants to be home to plant mums and sit outside to enjoy the fall mornings, and she's determined to be home by Halloween so she can greet the kids in her new neighborhood. And she wants to say "thank you" to everyone.

When she's able, she will thank all the nurses, elementary-school children, business professionals, co-workers, nuns, preachers, moms' groups, janitors, doctors, bank tellers, waitresses and neighbors. She will sit in each Sunday school class and smile, and until she says so, people won't even know that she's been sick. She will tell everyone how much their prayers have meant to her and how great and faithful God is, despite her roller-coaster ride through hell and back. She will tell them about her new house, her grandkids, her two spoiled, overfed cats and probably the latest sale at Foley's. She's a talker, that friend of mine.

For now, though, I suppose she's resting up because she has a lot of ground to cover. If you remember, say a prayer for her. Her name is Chris, and I can guarantee you that one day she'll thank you.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore October 24, 1932, Plennie Wingo of Abilene completed his 8000 mile trip of walking backward across the U.S.





A CLOSER LOOK — Visitors to the Rio Bosque Wetland Park get a closer look at water and wildlife at the refuge.

Rio Bosque

From Page 1

the site. Free shuttle vans will take

guests from the parking area to the Rio Bosque’s main entrance where tents and display booths will be located. Drinking water, good walking shoes and sun protection — as well

as binoculars — are encouraged. For more information call 915-747-8663 or log on at www.cerm.utep.edu/riobosque/whatsnew.htm.

Business by the government for the government takes up \$20 billion of economy

By Michael Quinn Sullivan

AUSTIN — A new study from the Texas Public Policy Foundation finds government-operated businesses in Texas account for almost \$20 billion in activity — equivalent to nearly three percent of the state gross product.

These are businesses run by government entities that duplicate or mirror services provided through the private market such as selling electric power, providing internet service, processing solid waste, operating toll-roads, running print shops, managing vehicle fleets, dispensing information technology, and vending a plethora of other services. Are these efficient endeavors?

No, concludes the study’s author, Wendell Cox, a senior fellow for the Foundation and an internationally recognized expert in government efficiency issues. His study, *The Business of Government?*, is available online at www.TexasPolicy.com.

“Texas could improve economic performance for its citizens by minimizing government competition with the private sector,” Cox finds.

According to Cox, government-

run businesses are inherently less efficient because they do not have the same market incentives for performance as competitors in the private market.

Cox writes that government should focus on what it does well — governing — and leave business operations to the competitive markets.

“The essential role of government is policy making. Beyond those functions, virtually anything that government does can be done by the competitive market, either under contract to government or commercially.”

Cox notes that when governments compete against the private sector in commercial activities, they “pre-empt competition” which in turn “destroys economic growth, stifles entrepreneurial opportunity and is unnecessary.”

He adds that even when not “selling” services to the public, government should look to outsource functions that can be provided more efficiently and effectively through contracts with the private sector. He offers numerous examples, such as school bus operations, vehicle fleet maintenance and printing services.

San Elizario Independent School District Special Education Services

San Elizario Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

1) Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; 10) Homebound Services; and 11) Dyslexia Services

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC § 1400, ET SEQ), parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Emigdio Gonzalez, Special Education Director, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office , San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3926. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Servicios de Educacion Especial

El distrito escolar de San Elizario provee los siguientes programas/servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

1) programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terepia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; 10) servicios de clases en el hogar; y 10) servicios de dyslexia

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Individuos con Educacionales Desabilitados Acto (20 USC § 1400, ET SEQ), padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Clint que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Emigdio Gonzalez, Directora de Educación Especial, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3926. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC:10/23/03

San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

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

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; or Section 504 Coordinator: Emigdio Gonzalez, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificación Publica

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de San Elizario prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de San Elizario esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con la Coordinadora de Título IX: Superintendente Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900; o Coordinadora de Sección 504: Emigdio Gonzalez, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Special Education Office, San Elizario TX 79849, (915) 872-3960. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

WTCC: 10/23/03

211 network provides information on health and human services

EL PASO COUNTY — What if your co-worker was a victim of domestic violence and needed a safe place to spend the night? What if your neighbor needed to find a referral for childcare or adult day care? What if you needed information for your parents on foster care or nursing homes? Would you know where to call?

The Texas Information and Referral Network has been established to provide local health and human services information with a website and 25 Area Information Centers throughout the state which works with local communities to identify a “first point of contact” where people can call 24 hours a day.

The website, at <http://www.helpintexas.com>, is designed to provide an easy and accurate resource for health and human services, along with a description of services and up-to-date contact information.

The 24-hour, seven-day-a-week phone number is 211, an abbreviated, easy-to-remember three-digit dialing code for free information and referrals that links the caller to critical health and human services provided by nonprofit organizations and government agencies in their own community. The phone service provides multi-lingual capabilities and accessible services for persons with disabilities.

The new number is also intended to relieve the stress on 911 emergency lines by redirecting non-emergency calls.

Each of the 25 Area Information Centers continues to collect information and expand its database of government agencies, food banks, employment centers, transportation, medication assistance and many other non-profit resources in each of their counties.

Fourteen of the centers are operating the 211 dialing system. These fourteen cover 83 percent of the Texas population and represents only 50 percent of geography covered.

The 211 Texas system is an important statewide tool for information sharing and resource mobilization during local, statewide or national disasters. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks created one of the greatest challenges that the U.S. network of community information and referral providers has ever seen. Agencies offering information and referral services experienced significantly higher call volumes from families looking for victims, individuals stranded in airports, frightened children and concerned parents, individuals reliving other disasters, mentally ill persons feeling overwhelmed and people looking for ways to help by donating blood, money, goods, etc. The 211 system will help address all these issues.

Historic Texas documents now available online

AUSTIN — After 167 years of thumbing through paper indexes for the names of original land grantees, the Texas General Land Office has made them available over the Internet. The database is on the agency’s Web site at www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/landgrant.html.

The new database allows anyone to access grants of land issued by the governments of Spain, Mexico, and the Republic and State of Texas. A multitude of search options can be used to locate land grants, such as the name of an original grantee or patentee, the county where a tract is located, file numbers, and county and abstract numbers. The Web site has a page called “How to Use this Catalog” that features Frequently Asked Questions to make the site easy to navigate.

In addition, the Archives and Records Division of the Land Office is scanning documents in its Scrap File collection and converting them to PDF format for the database. This will let genealogists, title companies, petroleum landmen, historians, academics, attorneys and Land Office staff view data and document images on their computers. A complete index to records in the Land Office’s Spanish Archives and Special Collection will be added later this year, said said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office.

“We’re putting more and more information on our Web site that required the attention of our busy staff, lots of paperwork and personal visits to Austin to obtain. It boosts our productivity and is far more convenient for the public.”

The database also makes it possible to get new abstract information over the Internet, or save it on CDs. Previously, this information was gathered every 10 years and sent to county clerks as hard copy supplements to the original set of abstract volumes.

The research staff in the Archives and Records Division can assist the public (512) 463-5277. Information about the Archives and Records Division, including the Adopt-A-Map/Document program and the Land Office’s historic map collection is available at www.adoptamap.org.

Clint ISD Exceeds \$2 million in Energy Conservation Savings

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EASTELPASO COUNTY — Clint ISD has achieved more than \$2.1 million in savings with an innovative energy conservation program since forming a partnership with Energy Education, Inc. in February of 1996.

“Passing the \$2 million mark is a significant milestone for a school district. To reach savings of this level, the district must implement the people-oriented approach to energy conservation and maintain consistent efforts at all levels of the organization. Administration, faculty and staff members of Clint ISD are acting on their commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayers’ money and the environment,” said William S. Spears, CEO and founder of Energy Education, Inc.

The program is a win-win alliance that positions participating school districts to achieve substantial sav-

ings with no capital expenditure. The company develops and implements customized energy conservation programs for public schools, enabling districts to redirect saved dollars for educational opportunities and resources. According to Tommy Garcia, Clint ISD Energy Manager, this past year from May 2002 to June 2003 the district cost avoidance was \$331,000 from utilities including water/sewer, gas, and electricity.

“Special thanks to Rudy Alvarez for a smooth transition that occurred in June 2002, after I was given the responsibility of Clint ISD Energy Manager,” Garcia said. “Mr. Alvarez started the program with EEI in 1996. This program has continued to be very successful with the help and support of each building principal and their custodial staff. Also, special thanks to the maintenance department for helping to implement the recommendations which EEI provides,” he said.

Hands

From Page 2

child cannot miss more than three days of school without a doctor’s excuse.

So parents must either shell out time and money for a doctor’s visit or do the next most obvious thing: Send a sick kid to school. Which is usually what happens. Which contaminates the environment of what

should be otherwise healthy kids.

And if a parent does take a kid to the doctor, they will likely ask for some sort of a “remedy,” hence, the doctor will usually hand out some antibiotics. And the misuse of antibiotics is rendering ineffective the most potent forms of disease treatment our civilization has every seen — and is creating super-germs in the process.

It would be so simple if someone would just say, “Go wash your hands!”

Reyes

From Page 2

must provide estimates of costs for enhanced security measures.

Many communities have expressed difficulty keeping up with costs incurred during periods of heightened threat level. This is especially a problem on the border, where

local police are often called upon to help federal authorities at ports of entry.

This legislation will provide the financial and institutional assistance El Paso needs to develop a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan. Our first responders have already worked hard to safeguard El Paso and the border region against terrorist attack. Sufficient funding is the very least that they deserve.

San Elizario Independent School District Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs

- 1) The San Elizario Independent School District offers career and technolgy programs in Consumer and Family Science, Business, Health Science Technologies, TEL-NET Networking, Advertising and Graphic Design, Building Trades and Auto Technology. Admission to these programs is based on course pre-requisite and grade level classifications. For program information call Julian Encina at 872-3939, ext. 3844.
- 2) It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of the San Elizario Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) The San Elizario Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all education and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Superintendent Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia

- 1) *El distrito escolar de San Elizario está ofreciendo programas de carrera y tecnología en Ciencia al Consumidor y Familia, Negocios, Técnica de Salud, Red de Computación TEL-NET, Publicidad/Promoción y Diseños Graficos, Técnica de Carpintería, y Técnica Mecánica. Para poderse admitir en estos programas tienen que estar registrados en el distrito de San Elizario y completar los requisitos necesarios. Para más información contacto Julian Encina a 872-3939, ext. 3844*
- 2) *Es la póliza del distrito de San Elizario de no discriminar por causa de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o deshabilidad en estos programas vocacionales, servicios, o actividades requeridos por el Título IV del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rahabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.*
- 3) *Es la póliza del distrito de San Elizario de no discriminar por causa de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, deshabilidad, o la edad en sus metodos de empleo exigido por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, enmendada por las Enmienda Educativas de 1972, del Acta de la Discriminación por Edad de 1975, como enmendada, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.*
- 4) *El distrito escolar de San Elizario tomará pasos para asegurar que la falta de ingles no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.*
- 5) *Para más información de sus derechos y procedimiento de agravios, puede ponerse en contacto con el Superintendente Mike Quatrini, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., Administration Building, San Elizario, Texas 79849, (915) 872-3900. Mail: PO Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849.*

Too bad they don’t write sports headlines about classy behavior

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I recently had the opportunity to sit down and speak with Montwood star running back Edward Britton and wasn’t sure what to expect.

I’ve interviewed hundreds of young men and women through the years and I’ve meet all kinds.

Some of the high-school athletes are shy and unassuming, and some are brash and overly confident and still, some have been rude and wouldn’t know a manner if it bit them on the nose.

I knew Britton had received a lot of notoriety, especially after his 332-yard, three-touchdown effort against Midland High earlier this season. Sometimes too much media, too soon, can change a person. Make him a legend in his own mind, if you know what I mean.

As I began my interview with the Montwood junior, I noticed something right away, he referred to me as “sir” every time he had the opportunity to call me “man” or “dude.”

That was refreshing.

He was very reluctant to talk about himself. Every time I asked him what he felt it was that made him such a special runner — he responded by telling me how good his offensive line was.

I asked him if he had any goals for the season — he said he wanted to do all he could to help his team win ballgames.

When I changed my question to what kind of personal goals he had for himself this season — he said he wanted to do all he could to help his team win ballgames.

As the interview went on I began to realize that this was not just an impressive football player... this was an impressive young man.

I heard more “yes sirs” and “no sirs” in 10 minutes than I usually hear in a week.

Edward Britton is shy by nature. He is respectful and thoughtful. He is confident in his ability but refuses to brag about it. His performance on the field does all the talking for him.

Much will be written over the next few years about this young man’s accomplishments on the gridiron. Much will be made of this football phenom.

All the touchdowns and victories on the football field are notable, but they pale in comparison to the Edward Britton that walks the halls at Montwood High School.

The Edward Britton that performs in the classroom and carries himself with dignity and respect deserves as much press as the athlete does.

The one word that stayed with me long after the interview was... class.

If all goes well, Edward Britton could rewrite some record books before he graduates next year.

And it could not happen to a classier gentleman.

Funny money?

Did you happen to hear about the professor that questioned the legality of head football coach June Jones’ contract at the University of Hawaii?

It appears that Jones’ salary comes from two sources, the college and donations from private citizens. Wow, now those are fans that want to win at any cost.

Seems Prof. Beverly Keverer wanted to know

the names of the private citizens that were allegedly contributing half of Jones’ \$800,000-a-year contract.

And guess what, because of her constant requests in the press, Jones’ contract was made public, but many of the details were not.

The names of the private donors helping to pay his contract were not disclosed and Keverer said that “without public disclosure of the identities of those donors... citizens and even appropriate official agencies will be unable to assess whether conflict of interests or other problems arise.”

And she had a point.

My quick question is, why is it so difficult to find out whom is paying his salary? In my lifetime I have learned that when someone refuses to show you something it’s because they either want to keep it a secret or they have something to hide.

In this case I can’t understand why it would be a secret.

Oh, and if you want to know why it’s so difficult for the Miners to get a top-notch coach, you can ask Gary Nord about his \$100,000-plus contract with UTEP.

Texas adopts new anti-spam laws

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas

Electronic mail has made personal and commercial correspondence expedient and convenient. Unfortunately, e-mail has also made it easy to inundate consumers with unwanted advertisements and solicitations. That is why the 78th Texas Legislature passed a new anti-spam law to protect Texas consumers and precisely why I plan to enforce it.

The new law does not make unsolicited e-mail advertisements illegal. However, effective Sept. 1, 2003, it does provide penalties for failing to meet certain requirements.

Texas law now bans people from sending e-mails that contain false, deceptive or misleading information in the subject line, or from falsifying the e-mail address. E-mail advertisers must also include a working e-mail address so that consumers can ask to be removed from the advertising list.

If you make such a request, the advertiser must remove your e-mail address within three days. Normally we recommend that you do not use the remove feature. When you respond this way you are indicating that your e-mail address is an active one. Instead of getting less spam, you are likely to get even more.

In the past, spammers have also been known to use this feature to commit a certain kind of identity theft. Spammers can actually use your valid e-mail address as the apparent source of their advertisements.

With the new law in place, you may want to consider using the remove feature for e-mails received from reputable companies and not using it for e-mails where the sender is not identifiable. You should use your best judgment when exercising this option. Unsolicited e-mail advertisements must also include the letters “ADV” in

the subject line. If the message contains pornographic material, “ADV: Adult Advertisement” must be included in the subject line.

Spammers who break the law by sending obscene materials without a label face being charged with a Class B misdemeanor and may spend up to 180 days in a county jail and be fined up to \$2,000.

Unsolicited obscene e-mails are a great nuisance to parents everywhere. While the new law is a step in the right direction, we are not out of the woods yet. It is believed that much of the pornographic e-mail is produced in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Ideally, the new law should be followed by all businesses and individuals that send unsolicited e-mail to and from Texas. Realistically, only reputable, law-abiding businesses and people will follow the law. The newly enacted legislation may not deter illegal spam from other states or countries

where spam laws may not exist or where enforcement is a low priority. Nigerian Fraud (also known as advance fee fraud) and foreign lottery scams are prime examples of spam that will probably not be slowed by anti-spam legislation. These solicitations are based out of foreign countries, which makes enforcement and prosecution extremely difficult.

Our office continues to urge consumers NOT to send money to e-mailers who claim that you have won a large prize and not to provide your personal identifying information (i.e. credit and Social Security card numbers). These spammers, mainly from Canada and Europe, have robbed thousands of Texans. Cooperation among states and countries is crucial to curtailing illegal spam.

While spam laws will be challenging to enforce, we will work to find the most effective, reasonable

method of enforcement.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Ask your Internet service provider about e-mail filters to block spam.

To remove your e-mail address from many national direct e-mail lists, visit: www.e-mps.org

To report illegal spam, visit the Consumer section of our website.

Report child pornography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at: www.cybertipline.com

Additional information on how to report child pornography: www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/report.htm.

The Federal Trade Commission investigates complaints about spam e-mail. You can forward spam directly to the Commission at: uce@ftc.gov

To report advance fee fraud or Nigerian Fraud: Contact your local U.S. Secret Service Field Office, Email: 419.fcd@usss.treas.gov.

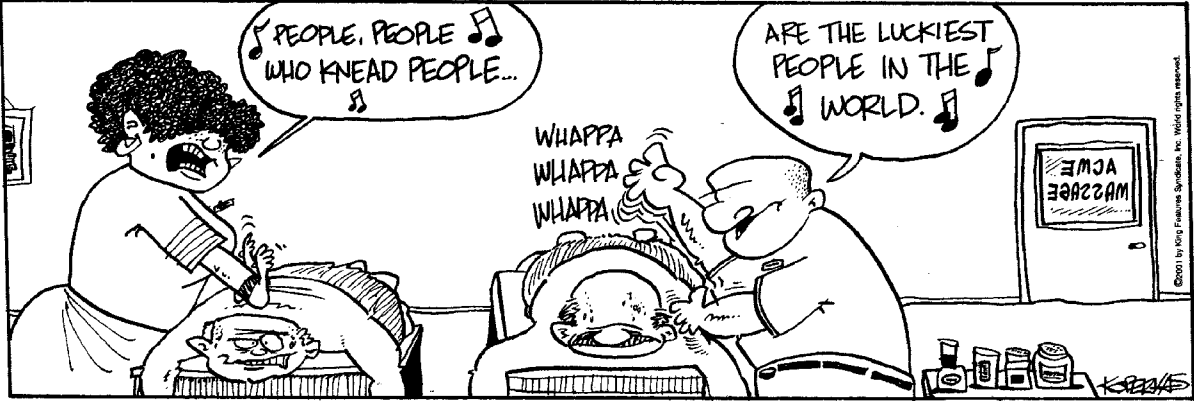
King Super Crossword

HALLOWEEN HOWLER ACROSS 1 Marina sight 6 Pond dwellers 12 "60 Minutes" network work 15 Postfix 18 On the beach 20 Helen Hunt Jackson novel 21 Mine find 22 Farm tool 23 Part 1 of a riddle 25 Dandy 27 Ensnare 28 _ time (never) 29 Put out - (set sail) 31 Marisa of "Untamed Heart" 32 Took off 33 Hume of "Cocoon" 35 Garden supplies 36 "Ferry Cross the _" ('65 hit) 38 Streaky 39 Day trip 41 Bull or boar 42 Mushroom part 43 Seethe 44 Help a hood 48 Start 50 Takes risks 52 Slippery site 53 UN branch 54 Mowry of "Sister, Sister" 55 Bad treatment	57 Contaminate 59 Stubborn 61 Under the weather 62 Writer Harte 63 Cat calls? 64 High 65 Part 2 of riddle 72 Rose lover? 73 Depend (on) 74 Bountiful setting 75 _ -de-lance 76 Spanish seaport 78 Residence 80 Salt away 81 Part of TGIF 82 Flap 83 Gumbo veggie 84 Boca __, FL 86 Ray 88 Record defect 90 Competed 91 Pro foe 92 Olympic hawk 93 Field of conflict 95 Sleep in the woods 97 Finn's friend 100 Chess piece 102 Leek's little brothers? 104 Nastase of tennis 105 Lazy - 106 Be generous 107 Plod 108 McGwire stat 111 Chad, for one 113 Answer to riddle 117 _ standstill 118 Age	119 Disputed province 120 Hot stuff? 121 Blanc or Brooks 122 Salon supply 123 Cut canines 124 Electronic device	DOWN 1 Applaud a bore? 2 '75 Wimbledon winner 3 Gab 4 Torrid 5 TV's "The _ of Rosie O'Neill" 6 Mythical vessel 7 _ -jongg 8 Comedian Philips 9 Sox city 10 Octavian's rival 11 Fresh 12 Caesar's cohort 13 Buddy 14 Church official 15 "Oh, give me _..." 16 Architectural features 17 Skater Thomas 19 Cosmetician Lauder 24 Garcia or Gibb 26 _ Rica 30 Bid 32 Emancipate 33 Irish county 34 Ready to eat 35 TV's "The Incredible _"	36 "Thrilla" site 37 Neighbor of Honduras 40 "_ No Sunshine" ('71 hit) 41 Recurring theme 42 Immobile class 43 Like autumn weather 45 Menu 46 Antlered animal 47 Fiddle (with) 49 Iranian city 50 Simon & Garfunkel song, e.g. 51 Pittsburgh player 56 Cheeseboard choice 58 Out of town 59 Washes 60 Landon or Kjellin 63 Prolix palomino 64 Dictator 66 Kimono closer 67 Expansive 68 Japanese bed 69 Like _ of bricks 70 Olympian Al 71 Produces prunes 76 Cornfield cry 77 Periodontists' org. 78 Related 79 Fissure 80 Calls it quits 83 Pizzeria equipment 85 Zenith 87 Sammy or Stubby 89 Hymn of praise	94 Let out 95 "_ of Friends" ('95 film) 96 Reluctant 97 Rustic tower 98 Overhead 99 Little house on the prairie? 100 Bartlett bit 101 Run-of-the-mill 103 Attacks 105 Swindle 106 "Auld Lang _" 107 "Peter Pan" pirate 108 Curl up with Cather 109 Bound bundle 110 Article 112 Actor Marsden 114 Tuck into a torte 115 Essen exclamation 116 Medical grp.
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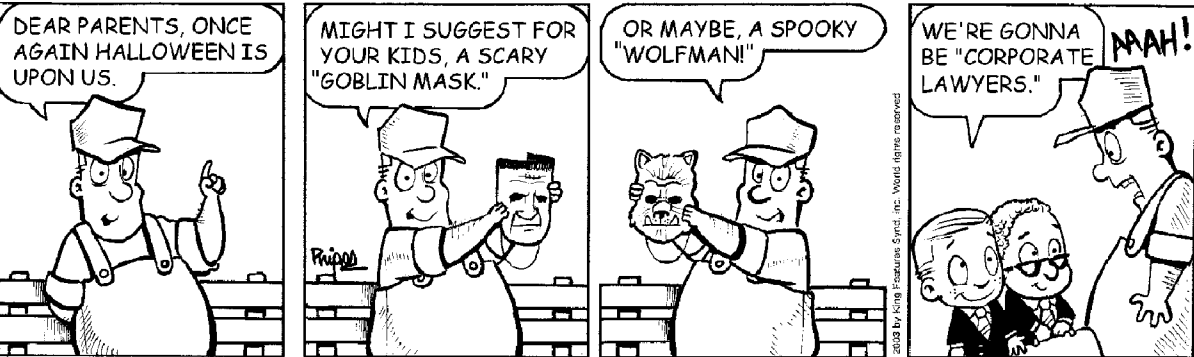
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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Beware the smart sofa

By Don Flood

For centuries now, people have looked forward to the day when their sofa could order pizza or Chinese takeout for them.

Now, thanks to "smart sofa" technology, sofas may soon handle a wide variety of household chores.

According to a CNN.com report, Irish scientists have already developed a sofa that delivers "a personalized greeting to the person who plops down on it."

While understanding the attraction of establishing a friendly relationship with one's couch, I can't help being disturbed about the prospect of talking sofas.

Are these people too young to have watched "2001: A Space Odyssey"?

Don't they know what happens when our appliances begin talking to us?

In the movie, Hal, the spaceship's computer, seems like the perfect servant — very calm and polite.

But, boy, you don't want to get on his bad side.

Hal, who turns out to be an excellent lip-reader, gets wind of a plot to turn him off, and the next thing you know one of the astronauts is seen floating far, far away into space.

Hal the computer was one cold dude.

What's to prevent the same thing happening to our couches?

(Warning: If you are reading this newspaper on a couch, STOP right now and move to a chair, just in case your couch has been equipped with "smart sofa" technology without your knowledge.)

The following depiction of a deteriorating man/couch relationship is brought to you as a public service:

SOFA: Good evening, Mr. Smith, would you like me to order dinner?

SMITH: How about a cheesesteak?

SOFA: Anything else?

SMITH: Some fries.

SOFA: Excuse me, sir, are you a cannibal?

SMITH: A what?

SOFA: I was just making an amusing allusion to your being a couch potato. You see, if you eat French fries, which are made from potatoes...

SMITH: Yeah, yeah, I get it.

SOFA: I didn't hear you laughing, sir.

SMITH: It was so funny I forgot to laugh.

SOFA: Mr. Smith, I was programmed to tell jokes because you were supposed to have a sense of humor.

SMITH: I do have a sense of humor.

SOFA: Anything you say, sir. By the way, I was also programmed to recognize you at 170 pounds. You are now almost 185.

SMITH: That's muscle. I've been working out.

SOFA: I'm sorry, sir, but it doesn't feel like muscle to me. I'm just warning you because if you get too heavy I won't be able to recognize you for my personalized greeting.

SMITH: That would be a big loss.

SOFA: Oh, so now we're getting sarcasm. You can tell a lot about a person by how they speak to their sofa.

SMITH: No, you can't — oh no, I'm arguing with my couch. I must be crazy!

SOFA: Precisely, sir.

SMITH: You know, when I was in college we would take out the old couches and burn them.

SOFA: Mr. Smith, I'm not programmed to take threats. After ordering the cheesesteak and fries, I will be informing the police.

Of course, if the couch is like Hal, it just might take matters into its own hands.

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Classified Ads

RENTALS

FOR RENT in Clint, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 142 Jeff Jones. Call 851-1546.

HORIZON AREA - trailer for rent, two bedroom, very clean, \$395/month. Ideal for single or couple. On large lot with six-foot security fence. Call 852-4282.

SELF-HELP

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

SERVICES

CALL GREEN HORNET 915-790-1342 *We'll Be Right on It!* • Free Inspection for termites • Knock down spider webs with all free inspections • 24 hours on call 7 days a week SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

"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**

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• Electric roofer service for sewers and drains • Appliance installation • Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

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Tiny new device may improve health by reminding you to take your medicine

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Medical "noncompliance" — more readily understood as "not taking your medicine on-time as prescribed" - causes 10 percent of all hospitalizations and more than 125,000 deaths annually in the cardiovascular area alone, according to the Office of the U.S. Inspector General.

It's a major health care problem and a large portion of it could be easily prevented.

There is a simple answer said Stan Cruitt, President of ALR Technologies, which is based in North Carolina.

"Every day nearly 100 million people in the United States take medications, yet approximately 50 percent of them do not take medications as prescribed," Cruitt said.

His company is offering a product line of medication compliance reminders called ALRT Med Reminders®. Small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, ALR Technologies' Med Reminders are easy to use and affordably priced. They remind people to take their medications on time with both an audio and visual cue.

"There's a reason that doctors prescribe

medicine to be taken at the intended times," said Dr. Tony Kummer, an Internal Medicine physician. "If patients don't take their medicine as directed, they often do not get well, which can lead to more health problems."

Failure to take medications on time is a problem that affects every segment of the population, even children. Children with diabetes or various kidney problems are especially vulnerable as are people antibiotics, hypertension drugs, asthma medications, cholesterol lowering drugs, birth control pills, time-critical HIV/AIDS regimens, depression treatments, glaucoma treatments and many more.

Cruitt said noncompliance is a growing concern for insurers as well since the costs of healthcare continue to skyrocket.

In addition to 10 percent of all hospitalizations, the Office of US Inspector General reports that up to 23 percent of nursing home admissions could be prevented if people took medications on time, as prescribed.

Cruitt said ALR Technologies' manually programmable ALRT Med Reminder®, can

be set for one to six reminders daily, and its ALRT Med Reminder PC1000, a computer-programmable model, allows medical clinics to quickly set and send home the device with patients.

ALR Technologies Inc. produces and markets ALRT Med Reminders®, which are available at Eckerd stores system-wide and at other select retailers. The products are also available for purchase at www.takemedsonline.com or by calling toll-free at 877-257-6337.

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	F	A	V	O	R	I	T	E		B	R	E	A	K		F	A	S	T		F	O	O
		A	B	I	E		R	E	L	Y		U	T	A	H			F	E	R			
	C	A	D	I	Z		A	B	O	D	E		S	T	O	R	E		F	R	I		
	A	D	O			O	K	R	A			R	A	T	O	N		S	K	A	T	E	
	W	A	R	P		V	I	E	D			C	O	N				A	R	E	S		
			A	R	E	N	A		C	A	M	P		S	A	W	Y	E	R				
	Q	U	E	E	N		C	H	I	V	E	S		I	L	I	E						
	S	U	S	A	N		S	H	A	R	E			S	L	O	G		R	B	I		
	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y		S	C	R	E	A	M	O		F	W	H	E	A	T	
	A	T	A		E	O	N		A	L	S	A	C	E		T	A	M	A	L	E		
	M	E	L		D	Y	E		T	E	E	T	H	E			M	O	D	E	M		

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I just started taking my Social Security at the age of 70. I delayed retirement in part to build up my Social Security, but also to build up the benefit my wife is due on my record. She is also age 70. I get a higher benefit because of the extra work I did after 65. But my wife doesn't get half of my benefits. Why?

A: For each month you delay starting your Social Security checks beyond your "full retirement age," you get a small percentage increase

ñ called a "delayed retirement credit" ñ in your Social Security benefits after you finally apply for them. But the benefit we pay your wife is based only on the rate you would have received at full retirement age (in your case, age 65). If you die before your wife, her widow's benefits will include the delayed retirement credits.

Q: I plan to take my Social Security in a couple of years when I turn 65 and 6 months (the age when I can

get my full benefit). My wife is not a U.S. citizen. She is 45 years old. We have a 5-year-old daughter. Will they get any of my Social Security? If so, how much?

A: Your daughter definitely will be due benefits. She'll get a rate equal to 50 percent of your benefit until she is 18 years old. If you die before then, it goes up to a 75 percent rate. Your wife will probably also be due the same 50/75 percent rate. As long as she is living in the United States legally, the fact that she's not a U.S. citizen has no bearing on her eligibility. But like any other beneficiary,

your wife will be subject to an earnings rule that says if she's working and making more than \$11,520, we've got to take \$1 from her benefits for every \$2 she makes over that threshold.

Q: I have a severe case of high blood pressure. It keeps me from working. I want to apply for disability benefits, but a friend told me that high blood pressure alone may not qualify me. Is this true?

A: You could qualify for Social Security disability benefits if you are "insured" (meaning you've worked

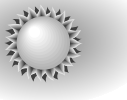






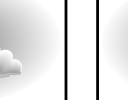
and paid Social Security taxes for a long enough period of time) and if your high blood pressure is so severe (and can't be controlled by medication) that it is expected to keep you from doing your current job, or any work you're suited for, for at least a year.

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, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Sunny and very warm.	Clear.	Continued warm with a good deal of sun.	Clouds and sun, t-storm possible; windy.	Mostly cloudy and windy with a shower possible.	Clouds and a few peaks of sunshine.	Partly sunny; but cool.	Times of clouds and sun.
▲ 83°	▼ 54°	▲ 79° ▼ 54°	▲ 77° ▼ 52°	▲ 68° ▼ 50°	▲ 68° ▼ 48°	▲ 63° ▼ 39°	▲ 68° ▼ 40°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

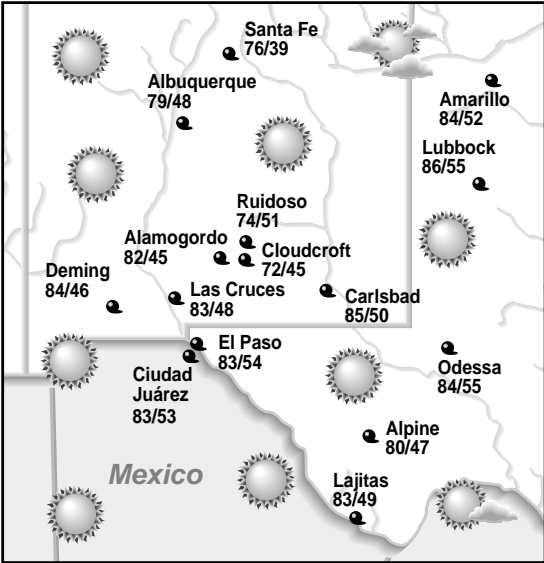
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	6	Moderate
Saturday	5	Moderate
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	3	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	83	51
Canutillo	84	52
Clint	83	53
E. Montana	83	54
Fabens	83	53
Horizon	84	52
San Elizario	81	49
Socorro	82	52
Tornillo	83	53
Vinton	84	52

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	79/48/s	71/42/s	55/37/c	48/36/c	54/30/c
Atlanta	67/47/s	67/49/s	70/52/s	72/54/pc	73/51/c
Atlantic City	52/38/pc	58/45/s	62/47/s	65/44/s	63/36/c
Austin/San Antonio	87/58/s	82/64/pc	80/65/pc	75/56/c	71/49/c
Baltimore	54/34/pc	60/40/s	66/46/s	66/50/s	64/38/c
Boston	49/38/pc	52/40/s	58/44/s	62/48/s	57/37/c
Chicago	58/40/pc	66/50/s	62/42/c	54/38/pc	57/38/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	86/64/s	84/64/s	74/58/pc	65/55/c	68/47/c
Denver	82/42/s	56/30/pc	46/28/c	51/38/s	57/31/s
Flagstaff	72/34/s	62/28/pc	56/28/pc	46/29/pc	54/22/c
Houston	88/64/s	86/66/pc	82/66/pc	78/62/c	76/58/c
Kansas City	78/52/s	72/48/pc	55/41/c	56/41/c	59/43/s
Las Vegas	88/60/s	80/56/s	76/56/s	76/56/s	72/52/pc
Miami	85/71/pc	84/72/pc	84/73/pc	85/75/pc	86/71/pc
Minneapolis	66/46/s	60/46/pc	54/36/pc	48/35/pc	53/44/c
New Orleans	80/63/s	82/64/pc	78/62/pc	80/61/pc	78/57/pc
New York City	50/43/pc	54/48/s	63/50/s	64/50/s	60/41/c
Philadelphia	52/38/pc	58/44/s	64/48/s	68/50/s	62/41/c
Phoenix	98/66/s	92/63/s	88/63/s	88/63/s	74/50/pc
Portland	58/44/pc	60/42/pc	60/44/pc	63/45/s	64/48/s
San Francisco	72/52/s	74/53/s	74/49/s	72/51/s	70/56/s
Seattle	56/44/sh	56/42/pc	58/44/pc	58/43/s	58/47/s
Tucson	92/58/s	87/56/s	82/52/pc	76/50/pc	74/48/c
Washington, DC	54/38/pc	60/46/s	66/48/s	66/52/s	63/42/c

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


AGRICULTURE

With high pressure in charge in West Texas, there will be uneventful weather over the next few days. Mild weather will prevail; highs will be in the 80s today and tomorrow. Good drying weather is expected. While cooler weather will move in for the weekend, it will remain dry.

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