



# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



VOL. 30, No. 44

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

OCTOBER 30, 2003

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Clint ISD moves office

On Oct. 10, 2003, Clint Independent School District Central Administration offices moved from 125 Brown Street in the town of Clint where it has been located since October of 1983. The new administrative offices are now centrally located at 14521 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City. The relocation will bring district administrative offices together in one building to better serve the community of the Clint school district. Housed in the new facility will be the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent's offices, Support Services, Instructional Services, Department of Athletics, Department of Technology, Personnel Services, Department of Facilities, and Business Services. The new phone number is 926-4000. The Clint ISD Special Education Department and Federal Programs will move from 14900 Greg Dr. in East Montana to the former administration building at 125 Brown Street in Clint. Their phone number is now 851-2877. The community is invited to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony and Open House, Nov. 7, 2003 from 3-5 p.m. at the new Central Administration Building in Horizon City.

### Church renamed

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, with a 27-year history in Horizon City, will celebrate its inaugural Holy Eucharist this Sunday, Nov. 2 as St. Brendan's Episcopal Church. The mission was renamed by the Right Rev. Terence Kelshaw, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande earlier this month. Services are at 10 a.m. During the final worship service under the previous name on Oct. 26, the church gave special recognition to Audrey Glaze and Delphine Koivisto, charter members who are still part of the congregation. The church was renamed after Brendan the Voyager, Born in AD 484 in Ireland, who became a monk, priest and abbot, and eventually came to the coast of America. For more information call 852-4171.

### In other news

■ A memorial fund has been established in the name of Jose Amparan, the San Elizario boy who was accidentally hit and killed while crossing the street on Sept. 22. Donations can be made to: Jose Ignacio Amparan, Jr., Memorial Fund, #600100242, First National Bank of Fabens, P.O. Box 278, Fabens, Texas 79838. Information: Monica Soto, 851-1622.

■ The Montwood High School Emerald Dancers will host their annual dance camp on Nov. 8 at Montwood High School Gym from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ages five to 16 are welcome. For information and registration contact Margie Dykes at 937-2569.

■ Canutillo Independent School District is inviting interested teachers, parents, community members and business representatives who would like to serve on the district and advisory councils. Community members must reside in the district, be at least 18 years of age, and not be a parent

See BRIEFS, Page 6

*When nature made great men she made critics out of the chips that were left over.*  
— Quips & Quotes

## Legality of Socorro's police department is challenged

*Courier Staff Reports*

SOCORRO — The legality of the police department operated by the City of Socorro for years has been challenged in a court of law because the department was not created by ordinance by any of several city councils responsible for its oversight.

In a court hearing last week, attorney Mario Gonzales challenged the authority of the Socorro Police Department to file charges against a client he is representing, alleging that the department itself is in operation illegally.

Gonzales, in an interview with the Courier this week, declined to name his client or discuss the charges filed against the party. However, he said a finding that the SPD is an illegal entity may have far-reaching effects for the East El Paso County municipality.

One legal source said such a ruling could affect numerous criminal cases including those in which persons are currently incarcerated. Civil rights violations may also be alleged.

Socorro Mayor Irma Sanchez was called to testify at the two-day hearing on Oct. 20-21. She testified that city records contain no documentation that an ordinance to create the department was ever drafted.

The Socorro Police Department evolved to fulfill municipal law enforcement responsibilities originally the jurisdiction of an elected marshal. The police department was later effectively dissolved when the Socorro Council, under then-Mayor Reuben Chavez, declined to fund the department under the 1990-91 budget and sold its two police cars to the fledgling Horizon City Police Department.

The Socorro Police Department came back into existence several years later under the administration of Mayor Rogelio Lozoya which drafted Resolution 77 to recognize and establish the department on Dec. 21, 1992. It has been in operation ever since.

Socorro voters approved a new home-rule Charter in 2001. The new Charter contained directives for operation of a Socorro Police

See CHALLENGE, Page 5

## Horizon accepts grant, will hire additional officers

*By Arleen Beard  
Special to the Courier*

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon City Council has approved acceptance of a U.S. Department of Justice COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP) grant awarded the Horizon City Police Department.

Although this grant was awarded to the police department, final approval was still necessary through the Horizon City Council because Horizon City must provide matching funds.

Police Chief Antonio Aguilar said the UHP grant award is for \$213,035 to hire three additional full-time new officers. The grant is to be utilized over a three-year period, which began on Sept. 1, 2003, when the grant was officially awarded.

The ending date for the award is Aug. 31, 2006. This grant is to be used to pay for salaries and benefits for new police

officer positions.

The grant provides 75 percent of the approved entry-level salary and benefits of each new officer hired on or after the award start date. A minimum of 25 percent local match is required (\$71,011). The match must be a cash from funds not previously budgeted for any law enforcement purpose, he said.

After considerable discussion and input from both council and the community regarding the need for more officers and the financial responsibilities for Horizon City, Council approved the grant.

In other business, City Council approved an agreement with Horizon City Regional Municipal Utility District for the installation of a repeater (antenna) on a water tower. City Council also approved the administrative cost agreement for the Far West Texas Water Plan.

The Town of Horizon City will also soon have its own telephone book. Council approved funding to publish the Town of Horizon City phone directory.

## San Eli student has seen drug devastation up close

*By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier*

SAN ELIZARIO — It was a simple classroom door-decorating contest for drug awareness, a project the students of San Elizario Middle School participated in to show their solidarity in staying drug-free.

But for Gerardo Gonzalez it was much more. For Gonzalez, an eighth-grader, every mark and shade of color in his winning drawing was an opportunity to cement his promise to stay drug-free, a promise he's kept since watching his uncle waste away on a hospital bed from a heroin overdose.

"It's such a terrible thing to see a relative dying like that," Gonzalez said. "When I saw

him his face looked purple."

According to Gonzalez, the family was notified of his uncle's hospitalization and within

See DRUGS, Page 4



SAY NO — Gerardo's anti-drug message.

## McMillie is best in class in Texas

*By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier*

CANUTILLO — Kyann McMillie, a first-grade teacher at Canutillo Elementary School

in the Canutillo Independent School District, has been named the Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2004, announced Texas Chief Deputy Commissioner Robert Scott.

"An educator such as Kyann McMillie is a wonderful example of excellent teachers

who instill an intellectual curiosity in the students whose lives she touches," he said.

McMillie's lifelong aspiration was to be an attorney or an accountant. After working in an accounting firm for several years, McMillie learned that while the pay was quite good, the "job satisfaction was very poor."

For the past eight years she has taught first and second grade at Canutillo Elementary School. She also is a part-time instructor at the University of Texas at El Paso and is a trainer for the Texas Reading Academies.

She firmly believes that to understand another person, "we must understand the situation from which they come."

"My teaching career has been lavishly sprinkled with caring, wonderful people who have shaped me in becoming the educator that I am," she said. In return, she feels that some of her most significant contributions to the field of teaching include her work as a mentor teacher for those in the Alternative Certification Program and pre-service teachers who work as student interns.

McMillie holds a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Western New Mexico University and a Masters degree in education from UTEP.

She will receive \$5,000 honoraria and a technology package worth \$15,000. The two other state finalists and the remaining 18 Regional Elementary Teachers of the Year will each receive \$500. She will be honored at an awards ceremony and luncheon on Nov. 8, at the Austin Marriott at the Capitol Hotel.

McMillie was selected from a group of 20 Regional Elementary Teachers of the Year. A panel of four judges narrowed the field of 20 to the three finalists on the basis of their written responses to questions. They were finally interviewed in Austin on Oct. 11 by a panel of 11 judges.


In the end, the panel selected McMillie because of her commitment to teaching, her articulation, and her reflective, innovative ideas for helping all students excel in the classroom.

The Texas Teacher of the Year Program is sponsored by the Texas Education Agency.



Kyann McMillie





# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## Taking care of busiess

I can't seem to find that phone number under the mess on my desk.

You know, the number for that elf company that was supposed to take care of all this while I was away. I don't know why I expected them to do it this time, though. They never have in the past.

When you "get away" for a few days or weeks, you're supposed to come home refreshed, right? A whole new outlook — the cobwebs blown from your mind by new surroundings, new thoughts.

Balderdash, or something like that.

To date I have never returned from time off to find that I have a clean slate. To the contrary, I find that no

one has taken care of business during my absence and it is patiently waiting for me — its mysterious and complex mass getting more mysterious and complex by the hour — or at least by each mail delivery.

Taking care of business is something we all have to do. To whatever degree we learn to do it in an organized and efficient manner determines the level of success we are going to achieve in this life.

You cannot leave business untended without it eventually coming back to bite you.

I get a kick out of kids who think they are somehow going to manage to squeak through life without having to do it. They labor under the false assumption that homework ignored goes away, that bedrooms untended will magically organize themselves, and that speeding tickets left unpaid never come back to haunt them — or land them in the back seat of the patrolman's car.

I've seen young people be so astonished when the utility company cut off their electricity because they didn't pay their bill. They are equally surprised when the phone and water companies follow suit.

This applies to other areas of our lives with varying levels of consequence.

If you don't arrange for health insurance you get a nasty financial surprise the next time you visit the doctor.

You don't pay attention to your

kids and you discover one day that they have grown into rather large, disagreeable strangers.

You don't bother to maintain your car and you wind up parked on the side of a dark, lonely road someday — probably lacking the cell phone you never purchased or the road service you never arranged for, and maybe not even having a friend to call because you didn't return phone calls, e-mails or letters.

Of course, I really hate having to take care of business twice, which happens regularly. Like a twice-baked potato, it takes twice the effort for the same amount of product.

You pay a bill and they don't credit you; you buy an appliance and it doesn't work; you hire an employee and he quits the next day.

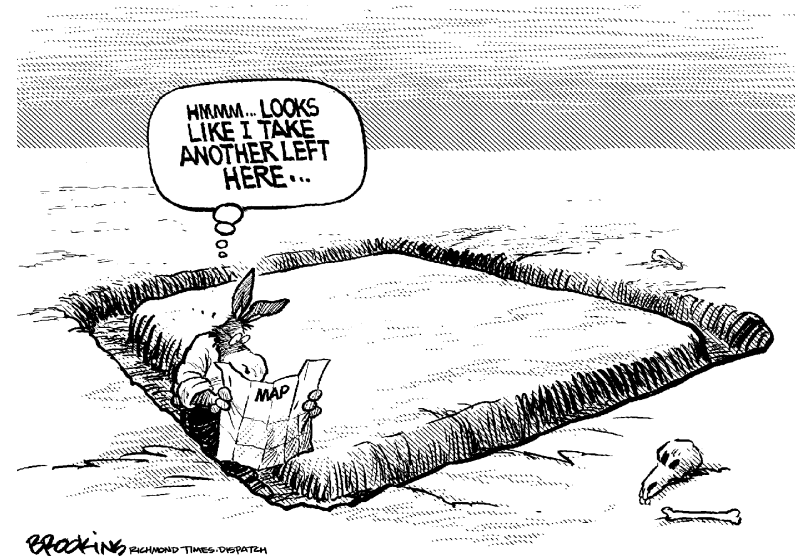
Other folks with which we do business don't make it easy to correct mistakes, either. That's why the phone systems we have to endure are so long and discouraging before you finally reach a real person. Some entities, like banks and utility companies, either don't have a local phone number or make it so hard to locate that people will eventually give up.

They just don't have time to talk to you. They are too busy taking care of business.

Some parts of business are more enjoyable than others and we take care of those fairly readily — and leave the rest till "later." Sometimes later is later for some jobs than others. Sometimes later is so later that it becomes never and that's when you know whether or not something really had to be seen to.

A friend of mine says we all have more business to take care of than is humanly possible, and she says that those jobs which must be attended first will rise to the top our consciousness like cream to the top of the milk can. Our priorities will set themselves, so to speak.

I guess she may be right. I often feel like I'm trying to extinguish a prairie fire — that I must run to stomp on the biggest flames first. The others



30 Years

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FARMER, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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




Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

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


**Publisher**  
Rick Shrum

**Business Manager**  
Francis D. Shrum

**Contributors**  
Don Woodyard  
Steve Escajeda  
Arleen Beard



**Homesteader News, Inc.**  
Est. 1973



# Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

## Redistricting, medical schools and public school funding all on the table

Hola, mi gente — we have finished our third special session and the redistricting issue and are now ready to embark on good news — El Paso's four year medical school. Of course, there's also another difficult and important matter ahead in the spring — public school finance and tax reform. Believe me, folks, it's not going to be easy.

Let's take redistricting first. Even though Texas Republicans have managed to approve a map which guarantees them absolute power, but which clearly violates minority voting rights for their own political gain, I'm happy to report that their map won't pass muster once it's challenged in court. This means that Republicans may be celebrating a mite too early.

Just listen to some headlines, as they reverberate throughout this great land:

- Texas Republicans Crossed the Line This Time — The Washington Post wrote: "It was hard work, re-making the political landscape of this sun-scorched, oil-soaked corner of the world. The project of reconstruction, never popular to begin with, lost luster and momentum with each new ambush, and sometimes it seemed like a lost cause..."
- Tom Delay Faces Judgment Day — from the Austin Chronicle: "Contiguous! Compact! Communities of Interest! Remember those words? Well, you can forget them now, just like the Republicans did. Instead, look at these pleasing and intriguing shapes. And weep."
- Those Aren't Cheers, Sirs — The Waco Tribune-Herald writes: "Tumult you hear about this episode is not congratulatory. Republican leaders in Austin are congratulating themselves for passing, at great cost, a congressional redistricting plan. We hope they don't expect brass bands as they trumpet their coup. The cheers they think they hear may be jeers."

In short, my friends, these head-

lines make reference to the fact that the new redistricting map will never be approved in court. But, the Republicans are going to try. Well, more power to them.

I'm pleased that at last we can get on to more pressing issues. Let's take the medical school first. El Paso stands to gain prestige, progress, and the creation of a health care system that can only portend great news for El Pasoans, when this plan becomes a reality. For one thing, the Texas Legislature has, at last, granted permission to the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center to distribute a \$45 million tuition revenue bond for the construction of classrooms and faculty offices to develop a four-year medical school in El Paso. This would be the first new medical school to be built in the United States in 30 years. It would also be the only medical school located on the U.S.-Mexico Border. Even though appropriations have not yet been given to

See CHENTE, Page 5



# Bonilla throws support behind Fabens bridge project

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Representative Henry Bonilla recently announced that he is assisting El Paso County with their proposed plan to build an international bridge known as “The Tornilla-Guadalupe New International Bridge.”

The proposed bridge would run from Fabens into Mexico. It will provide the needed infrastructure for the growing population and economic development down river from the cities of El Paso and Juarez. A modern bridge is needed in this area to speed the flow of traffic and cargo between the U.S. and Mexico.

“I am proud to work with the dedicated individuals of El Paso County. We are committed to making this plan a reality,” said Bonilla. “I have asked the General Service Administration (GSA) to include this project in the President’s budget. I look forward to more advances on this issue in the weeks and months to come.”



Bonilla

GSA support for the funding of the design and construction of the new border station at Tornilla-Guadalupe is imperative for this project to move forward, he said.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Bonilla was also successful in inserting language into the report to accompany the FY 2004 Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill. This favorable language states that the Appropriations Committee is interested in plans concerning a new international bridge at Fabens near El Paso.

The report also requests GSA ensure that it incorporates the anticipated needs at Fabens. This language shows the interest of the Appropriations Committee to this project.

“This bridge will be a tremendous win for Texas,” said Bonilla. “I know it is important to the people of El Paso, so I’m putting it at the top of my priorities.”



## Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

### Time to disable the Disabled Veterans Tax

Congressional Republicans unveiled a plan to partially overturn the 113-year old policy, currently known as the Disabled Veterans Tax, that outlaws veterans’ concurrent receipt of disability compensation and military retirement pay.

This plan, while a step in the right direction towards ending this unfair tax on our nation’s disabled veterans, is hardly enough.

The Disabled Veterans Tax is a 19th century law requiring the retirement benefits of military retirees who have served for 20 or more years in the military to be reduced by the amount of service-connected disability benefits they receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Since my first term in Congress, I have fought to end this unfair penalty that is not used in any other government agencies. My colleague on the Republican side of the aisle, Congressman Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced a bill every Congress for the last 18 years that would end this tax and allow all disabled military retirees to receive their full retirement pay and their full disability compen-

sation concurrently. Every Congress, I sign on as an original co-sponsor of that bill and decry the practice among my Congressional colleagues and those within the Administration. The bill, unfortunately, has never gone to the floor of the House for a vote.

The recently released plan would phase out the Disabled Veterans Tax for a select group of veterans over 10 years. Veterans who suffer from a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or higher would receive full concurrent receipt 10 years from the day this plan is signed into law.

This plan leaves far too many veterans behind — 480,000 disabled retirees across the country do not make the 50 percent cut — and does not provide immediate relief even to those it pledges to help. Disabled retirees have been waiting years for their rightfully earned benefits. They should not be subject to a 10 year “phase-in.” For some, including our World War II veterans that make up America’s “Greatest Generation,” 10 years could be a life sentence.

The plan’s standard of eligibility —

which determines disability rating — is hard to read. A soldier who loses a foot is excluded under the Republican’s plan, as is a soldier who has had a below-the-knee amputation. These are both considered less than a 50 percent disability. However, a soldier who loses a hand is considered to be more than 50 percent disabled and would get concurrent receipt.

All disabled veterans — not just those deemed to be 50 percent disabled — deserve both their retirement benefits and their service-connected disability benefits.

My good friend Congressman Lane Evans (D-IL), the Ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, stated that this proposal is “justice delayed for some and justice denied for most.” He could not be more right.

The 5,300 disabled veterans in El Paso, the scores of veterans across the country and the members of the armed forces serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and countless other places across the world today deserve better. Those who serve in the military put the ideals of this country before themselves. The very least they deserve are the benefits they have rightfully earned. I urge my constituents to contact me as soon as possible with their stand on this issue. Your feedback will help me urge my colleagues to support an immediate end to the Disabled Veterans Tax.

## Write stuff

**Dear Editor:**

The Horizon Law Enforcement Coalition and its members would like to thank the Horizon City Council for recently approving a pay raise for the patrolmen. Albeit a small one, the patrolmen are nevertheless thankful and any amount was truly appreciated. We thank the city clerk for adjusting her budget enabling this to be provided to the patrol officers.

Additionally the federal government has approved a Fast Cops Grant for three additional police officers for the Horizon City Police Department. This is federal funding providing assistance that will enable the HCPD to provide complete and ample service to the community. These extra positions can be used to increase the police force enabling the police department to maintain safer neighborhood and streets. We can only hope that city council will approve and accept these additional police officers, even if they have

come in steps.

The officers have bills to pay, mouths to feed and they are regular folks just like everyone else, they just have a different job to do. They are proud to serve their community and appreciate what has been provided for them.

**D. Jones**  
**Horizon Law Enforcement Coalition**

**Dear Editor:**

With reference to the newsletters sent to all of us by our utilities companies, as well as other media; do you believe Juarez companies send their newsletters to their customers in both English and Spanish?

I believe we all know the answer.

So why do our utilities send newsletters in both English and Spanish?

**Bob Wilson**  
**Clint, Texas**

**Dear Editor:**

Social Security is a sensitive subject. About 2017 it will become an extinct subject as we know it, for it will essentially be bankrupt from retiring baby boomers and insolvent in essence. Reform needs to take place now to avert that scenario.

President Bush has outlined a plan that permits younger workers to place a modest percentage of their payroll taxes in a private plan that they own and can pass on to heirs upon death. This plan would also make much more possible and much less disruptive the measures necessary to save Social Security.

I would urge all citizens to endorse President Bush’s plan if they truly want to collect Social Security not too long from now without enormous taxes for workers or extreme reductions in benefits for recipients.

**James Robert Stewart**  
**El Paso**

### Pepperoni’s Pizza & Deli

852-2544

Limited Delivery Area

Chinese Food

Burgers & Subs



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

#### ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS PROGRAM (EDAP)

#### TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

#### CONTRACT #719205

Notice is hereby given of a scheduled public hearing to be held at 6:00 PM, Thursday, November 6, 2003, at the El Paso County Courthouse, Commissioners’ Courtroom, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #303, El Paso, TX 79901. Purpose of the meeting is to hold a final hearing and receive comments on the completion of the EDAP Water and Sewer Connections Project. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. Interested persons who cannot attend or require special assistance are asked to contact Rodrigo Mercado, El Paso County Planning & Development Department, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, TX 79901, (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 10/30/03

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

#### COLONIA ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS PROGRAM (CEDAP)

#### TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

#### CONTRACT #720215


Notice is hereby given of a scheduled public hearing to be held at 6:00 PM, Thursday, November 6, 2003, at the El Paso County Courthouse, Commissioners’ Courtroom, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #303, El Paso, TX 79901. Purpose of the meeting is to hold a final hearing and receive comments on the completion of the CEDAP Countywide Water and Sewer Connections Project. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. Interested persons who cannot attend or require special assistance are asked to contact Rodrigo Mercado, El Paso County Planning & Development Department, El Paso County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite #313, El Paso, TX 79901, (915) 543-3845.

WTCC: 10/30/03

### 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.



# NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Town of Anthony  
P.O. Box 1269  
Anthony, Texas 79821

October 24, 2003

## TO: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Seventeen (17) days after this publication, the Town of Anthony, Texas, intends to request the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) FY 2002 Project No. 722019.

### Texas Community Development Program Contract No. 722019 **Sewer System Improvements Project:**

- Demolition of two abandoned clarifiers, removal of abandoned headworks, removal of abandoned pump room and building, removal of abandoned storage room, cutting of existing lines from abandoned lines from abandoned structures, and plugging, as needed;
- Installation of submersible pumps and controls, installation of check valve at plant lift station;
- Removal and replacement of collapsed manhole at the intersection of Fresno and Luisa Streets. (See project map.)

Project Location:  
Construction Cost:

Town of Anthony, Texas  
\$207,000

### Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such a request of release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the Town of Anthony has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reason for such a decision not to prepare such a Statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by the Town of Anthony that documents the environmental review of the project, and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a statement is not required. The Environmental review Record is on file at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Oak Street, Anthony, Texas, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons, disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Town to P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within sixteen (16) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and the Town will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to 16 days after this publication.

### Release of Funds

The Town of Anthony will undertake the activities described above with funds from TCDP Texas Capital Fund Grant No. 722019, issued from Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I, from its 2002 Program Year, under provisions of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Town of Anthony is certifying to ORCA that the Hon. Art Franco in his official capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that, upon its approval, the Town of Anthony may use the Block Grant funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Office of Rural Community Affairs will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the Office of Rural Community Affairs, P.O. box 12877, Austin, Texas 78711.

Objections to release of the funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the Office of Rural Community Affairs. No objections received later than thirty-three (33) days after this publication will be considered by the Office of Rural Community Affairs.

Art Franco, Mayor  
Town of Anthony

West Texas County Courier  
Published: October 30, 2003

## Drugs

From Page 1

a few hours, he was dead. "He was addicted."

Gonzalez's drawing depicts two skeletons, one with angel's wings and the other wearing a fedora-like hat and smoking what appears to be a marijuana joint. The words, "Who says drugs kill?" in red letters complete the mostly black and white drawing.

"He saw a wallet-sized picture on the Internet. We gave him the supplies and he just did it on his own," said Veronica Keene, Gonzalez's eighth grade history teacher. "He's a very respectable young man."

With a penchant for drawing since age 11, Gonzalez says that his cousins have helped teach how to be respectable, only these cousins do not teach

using traditional measures. They are drop-outs who use pot but Gonzalez is still able to learn from their example — even if it is a bad one.

Gonzalez says he has found what he calls his "anti-drug," an addiction of his own: low-rider vehicles, though he knows first-hand that the low-rider culture has its stereotypes and can easily be misjudged.

"I was riding my low-rider bicycle and went to visit my grandmother's house," he said. "I was just resting under a tree taking a breather when a cop pulled up and told me I didn't belong there."

For now there's his low-rider bicycle but he says that his father is going to give him a 1966 Chevy Impala when he is old enough to drive. But no matter if he's pedaling, driving or drawing, Gonzalez and his classmates at San Elizario Middle School will be drug-free.

## Town of Clint Public Notice

Beginning January 1, 2004, businesses in Clint will be required to register annually at Town Hall. At the October 7th council meeting, aldermen passed an ordinance requiring the businesses to register. Mayor Gonzalez stated that this ordinance will help identify the businesses operating in the town for economic development purposes, provide a means to cross reference state sales tax reports and restrict undesirable businesses from operating. The fee for the business permit is \$36.00 each year. Businesses operating without a permit after the 10th of January may be fined up to \$500.00.

Jessica Garza  
Town Clerk

WTCC: 10/30/03

## Notice of Public Meeting To Discuss San Elizario Independent School District's State Financial Accountability Rating

The San Elizario Independent School District will hold a public hearing at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, November 13, 2003 in the boardroom of the San Elizario ISD Administration Building, 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, Texas.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss San Elizario Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

WTCC: 10/30/03 & 11/06/03

## San Elizario Independent School District Notice of Public AEIS Meeting

The community is invited to attend a public hearing of the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) annual report to be held on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. in the San Elizario ISD Board Room, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.

### *Junta del AEIS*

*Se invita a la comunidad entera a que asistan a una audiencia publica del reporte anual del Sistema Indicador de Excelencia Academica (AEIS) que se llevara acabo el miercoles 13 de noviembre del 2003 a las 5:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas de San Elizario ISD, 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, Texas, 79849.*

WTCC: 10/30/03

## Business

From Page 2

don't go away — they just get bigger until I can't ignore them any longer.

Still, there's something oddly comforting about taking care of business. I'd feel a little lost, I think, if my plate were any less full — like an old race horse who hears the bugle but can't get out to the track.

We all have to run as long as we can.

As I rummage through this mess, I find that the cobwebs that were supposed to be blown out of my mind during all those miles on the road actually were. I'm getting a clearer picture of my business overall because I'm handling in a few hours of concentrated work what would otherwise be spread over many days. I can tell from this pile of bills here exactly what I'm spending on utilities and credit cards because I'm looking at them all at once.

And besides, there's nothing like a termination notice from the electric company to clear your head.

I wish I could find that lazy elf's phone number.

## Chente

From Page 2

begin construction the legislature's ruling almost assures that funds will be made available when the Legislature meets again in 2005.

As we stand on the threshold of making Texas an even greater state, we must focus on our future — our children. Without an adequate education, even more of our young people will be falling through the cracks. The Robin Hood system of public school finance, wherein poor Texas school districts took money from wealthier districts, has been ruled outdated by Texas Republicans. Well and good, but where does that leave us?

Whereas Robin Hood financing might not have been the most perfect system in Texas, it did provide a somewhat stable funding process. That stabilizing influence, however, may very well be a thing of the past. For instance, talk is going around the state that everything is on the table — including, but not limited to, a state income tax.

Remember that it costs \$30 billion a year to operate our public schools. Where are we going to get the money, if we can no longer rely on wealthier districts to share the wealth? Some ideas being tossed around include: Cutting school property taxes by half and asking voters to approve a state-wide property tax, with revenue to be shared equally by all 1,039 school districts; increasing the state sales tax rate of 6.25 percent; expanding the sales tax to all services except medical; closing the business franchise tax loophole; asking voters to approve an income tax, or broadening the business tax.

So, there you have it, mi gente. We might have to go into Special Session — for the fourth time this year — to consider public school financing. It's a tough call, but I'd be happy to hear your ideas on how we can continue to provide a quality education for all our children. Let me hear from you. Until then, I remain, Chente for la gente

## Challenge

From Page 1

Department, including that the police department was to be created by ordinance.

Following her election as mayor in May of 2002, Sanchez requested then-City Attorney Francisco Dominguez draft the police department ordinance and finally, in May of 2003, placed the matter on council agenda for authorization.

The May 1, 2003 minutes of the Socorro council meeting show Dominguez advising that the SPD was "in existence and is within its full powers," and that "The ordinance is a formality that needs to be done in order to comply with the charter."

However, Dominguez later resigned as Socorro's legal adviser without fulfilling the authorization and was replaced by a colleague, Chris Borunda. The ordinance remained nonexistent.

Gonzales, who also serves as Horizon City's municipal court

judge, said his motion to suppress evidence was based on the fact that there is no ordinance creating the Socorro Police Department, therefore it has no inherent power to conduct traffic stops or otherwise enforce the laws within the jurisdiction of Socorro.

There was indication Tuesday afternoon this week that Judge Alex Gonzales may recuse himself from presiding over the case due to personnel matters, and no indication was given as to when a new judge might be appointed or how long it may be until the case is settled.

If the Socorro Police Department is found to have operated for years without legal authority to enforce the law in Socorro, the ramifications could be devastating and far-reaching. The SPD has also been controversial in the past involving several incidents, including the involvement of its officers in recent shootings.

At the very least the department will have to be rebuilt from the ground up, sources said.

## Comprehensive audit of City of Socorro government approved

SOCORRO — Since her election as mayor of the City of Socorro in May of 2002, Mayor Irma Sanchez has been requesting a thorough outside audit be conducted of the city operations. That request has finally been approved, though the audit itself may be some time coming.

While there have been yearly budget audits and some internal audits of financial records, according to Chris Borunda, city attorney, the type of audit Mayor Sanchez is requesting would be comprehensive and "very thorough."

However, Borunda said there is a waiting list at the State Comptroller's office for an audit of this caliber and that Socorro cannot be placed on that waiting list unless council adopted a resolution in support of the request.

Council simultaneously approved the authorization to submit a letter of request for services from the Local Government Assistance Group through the Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to conduct a traditional Financial Management Review for the City of Socorro, Texas and also to adopt a resolution in support of a request to Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts, for an Organizational Structure and Financial Management Review (FMR) of the city departments reporting directly to the city manager.

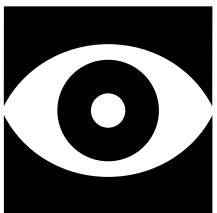
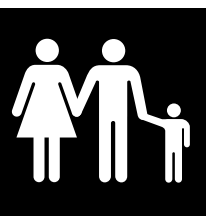
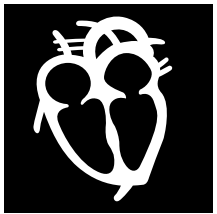
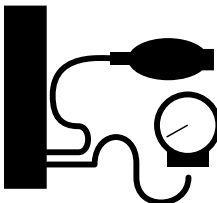
In other business, council voted to move deliberations over a proposed rezoning into closed executive session outside of public hearing.

Former city councilman and Socorro businessman Gilbert Lujan had approached the Planning Commission to request a rezoning of his property located at the 10600 Block of Socorro Road from R-1 to C-2, and the request has been tabled from a previous council meeting.

According to Interim City Manager Reyes Fierro, the C-2 zoning does not qualify for the business Lujan wants to operate at the mentioned address.

Fierro said Lujan's plans to have a

See SOCORRO, Page 8



# Horizon City Health Fair

**SPONSORED BY**  
Horizon City Lion's Club, HCIA (Horizon Communities Improvement Association), Oz Glaze Senior Center and Del Sol Medical Center

**9 A.M. - 2 P.M., SATURDAY, NOV. 8, 2003**  
Oz Glaze Senior Center  
13969 Veny Webb  
852-0062

**FREE SCREENINGS**

- Blood Sugar\*
- Blood Pressure
- Vision
- Cholesterol
- Wound Assessment
- Hearing and Speech

\* Participants are encouraged to wait 2 hours after eating before they have their blood sugar tested.

**FLU AND PNEUMONIA SHOTS**

- Provided by Pro Action
- Cost is \$15.00 (Medicare accepted)

**INFORMATION**

- Cancer
- Sleep Disorders
- Rehab Services
- Maternity
- Women's Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Hip, Knee, and Shoulder Pain

**Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Registration**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Horizon City Lion's Club:  
**852-1988**  
Del Sol Medical Center:  
**594-5938**











## Socorro

From Page 5

landscaping business on that property would mean having piles of rock, gravel and dirt. Fierro said the proper zoning would be M-2. The recommendation from the Planning Commission was to deny the proposed rezoning.

Mrs. Teodora Trujillo, concerned Socorro resident, said she was opposed to the rezoning for health rea-

sons. Lujan said he understood that part of the property sits on the Mission Trail, but told council he is willing to have a state of the art fence to be built around his property that would add to the attractiveness of the Mission Trail. Other Socorro residents in attendance voiced their opinions in favor and in opposition of the rezoning.

At the request and recommendation of city attorney Chris Borunda, council moved the agenda item to executive session and closed the meeting to the public.

## Fabens noted for sound fiscal management

FABENS — Fabens Independent School District officials have announced that the sistrict received a rating of “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ new Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system.

The superior rating is the state’s highest, and demonstrates the quality of FISD’s financial mangement and reporting system, officials said.

This is the first year this Texas Education Agency (TEA) developed criteria has been implemented by the state as a requirement of Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The goal is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources.

“We are very pleased with Fabens ISD’s Schools FIRST rating,” said Superintendent Poncho Garcia. “It shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers’ dollars. This rating shows that Fabens’ schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results const-effectively and efficiently.”









The accountability rating system assigns one for four levels to Texas school districts, ranging from superior to substandard. Districts with serious data quality problems may receive an additional rating of suspended-data quality. District rated substandard or suspended-data must file a corrective action plan with TEA.

Further information regarding FISD’s rating will be discussed on Wednesday, Nov. 19 during the regularly scheduled meeting of the board of trustees at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 821 NE “G” Avenue in Fabens.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Mostly sunny, breezy, and warm.	Mainly clear.	Warm and breezy with partial sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Pleasant with sunshine and a few clouds.	Mostly sunny and nice.	A mix of clouds and sunshine.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 78°	▼ 52°	▲ 76° ▼ 50°	▲ 76° ▼ 48°	▲ 74° ▼ 48°	▲ 72° ▼ 44°	▲ 72° ▼ 45°	▲ 76° ▼ 48°

### UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

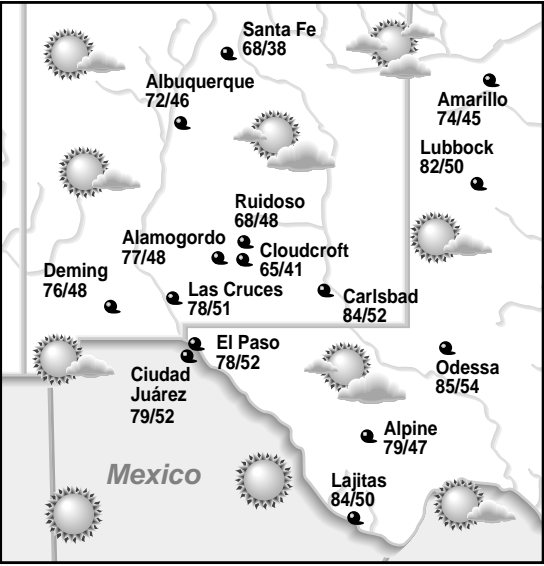
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	5	Moderate
Saturday	6	Moderate
Sunday	6	Moderate
Monday	6	Moderate
Tuesday	6	Moderate
Wednesday	5	Moderate

### TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	79	53
Canutillo	80	54
Clint	79	53
E. Montana	78	52
Fabens	79	53
Horizon	80	54
San Elizario	76	51
Socorro	77	51
Tornillo	79	53
Vinton	80	54

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	72/46/s	68/43/pc	67/41/s	66/41/s	60/28/pc
Atlanta	71/53/s	71/55/pc	73/55/pc	73/55/s	72/53/s
Atlantic City	67/48/s	70/52/s	70/52/s	74/47/pc	65/38/s
Austin/San Antonio	85/64/pc	82/66/pc	86/58/pc	83/62/pc	82/59/pc
Baltimore	68/46/s	70/50/s	72/52/s	74/52/pc	67/39/pc
Boston	60/46/s	64/50/s	68/52/s	68/48/pc	57/34/pc
Chicago	60/52/pc	66/52/pc	62/42/c	52/38/c	48/34/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	84/66/s	80/66/pc	82/65/pc	80/62/s	77/56/pc
Denver	50/27/c	45/27/c	45/31/c	52/31/pc	49/18/c
Flagstaff	60/36/pc	50/30/pc	50/27/pc	51/25/c	52/20/pc
Houston	86/66/s	84/68/pc	84/68/pc	84/68/pc	82/68/pc
Kansas City	68/52/pc	66/46/pc	58/44/c	51/36/c	52/34/c
Las Vegas	76/50/pc	68/46/s	64/46/s	66/44/pc	68/44/s
Miami	86/75/pc	87/75/pc	85/73/pc	85/76/pc	86/75/pc
Minneapolis	46/38/c	42/34/sn	39/25/c	37/23/c	38/21/c
New Orleans	82/63/s	81/64/s	81/66/pc	82/64/pc	82/63/pc
New York City	64/54/s	68/56/s	70/58/s	73/58/pc	61/41/pc
Philadelphia	68/50/s	70/54/s	72/56/s	74/56/pc	64/42/pc
Phoenix	83/60/s	78/56/pc	72/53/pc	74/54/c	73/49/pc
Portland	50/36/c	48/34/s	50/36/s	52/38/s	52/36/c
San Francisco	64/48/s	60/46/s	60/46/s	60/46/s	63/47/s
Seattle	46/36/pc	44/34/s	46/36/s	49/37/pc	50/36/c
Tucson	83/57/s	78/52/pc	74/50/pc	76/50/s	75/40/pc
Washington, DC	68/50/s	72/54/s	74/56/s	74/56/pc	67/45/pc

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

### AGRICULTURE

It will be warm and breezy but dry for the next several days across the region as a storm system over the Rockies will remain north of the region, keeping the colder air over the northern, Rockies but sending unseasonably warm air throughout the southern Plains. Winds on Thursday will come from the southwest at 10-20 mph.

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

# shop·vac®

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



Multi-Purpose Nozzle

► Carpet/Bare Floors



Crevice Tool

► Hard-to-Reach Spots



Round Brush

► Kitchen



Collection Bag

► Efficient Filtration for Easy Clean Up



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



**Blower Port**  
Instantly converts vac to powerful blower



**TRUE TRAC™**  
Anti-Tip Design



**Deluxe Tool Storage**



**LOCK ON™ HOSE**

# shop·vac®

the **Original** wet/dry vac

Available Only At

# LOWE'S®

Improving Home Improvement®

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

www.shopvac.com

Shop-Vac® is a registered trademark of Shop-Vac Corporation.

If It Doesn't Say Shop·Vac,  
Keep Shopping!®

www.lowes.com

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



**Bonus Accessories for in-home use!**  
**\$23.99** each

**\$59.00**  
10 Gallon, 4.0 Peak HP Wet/Dry Vac #215728