



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



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

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

NEWSBRIEFS

Family Fun Week

El Paso County will join the rest of the country in celebrating "National Family Week," beginning 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 with a Family Walk at the El Paso Zoo, followed at 11 a.m. with a Family Fun Festival at the El Paso County Coliseum. The Family Walk, sponsored by Walk El Paso and the El Paso Zoo, is free to the first 300 persons who register between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., when the walk begins at the zoo entrance. Families who wish to visit the Zoo on that day can do so at a special National Family Week discount price. The Family Fun Festival, sponsored by El Paso Sports Commission, Family Services of El Paso, and the "Strong Families, Strong Future" initiative, will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Coliseum, featuring live entertainment from school groups, activity booths, health screenings, a giant slide with an obstacle course, door prizes, and other family activities. Admission to the festival is free. For more information about the event, contact Melodya Salaices, "Strong Families, Strong Future" coordinator at 834-8246 or msalaices@epcounty.com.

Fabens Center noted

The Fabens Head Start Center was recently honored for providing high-quality early childhood programs with accreditation from the largest early-childhood education accreditation system in the nation, the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The Fabens Center, under the direction of Socorro Rede, will celebrate the achievement on Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. at 300 NW CC Camp Street. Opening the ceremony will be Fabens ISD Superintendent Poncho Garcia, whose remarks will be followed with a balloon-release by children of the Center. "It gives me great satisfaction and pride for NAEYC representatives to validate what we know we are already doing," Rede said.

Darrington update

Effective Dec. 1 the traffic control light at the intersection of Darrington Road and Horizon Blvd. will not be operating. Instead, a four-way sign will be placed at this intersection for traffic control. In addition, there will be signs on both streets to remind drivers that they are approaching a four-way stop. These signs will be in place for about three months. Information: 852-1046.

In other news

■ Americas High School will host two special concerts next month to which the public is invited and admission is free. On Wednesday, Dec. 10, a Holiday Christmas Concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Theater. Special guests will be the Ensor

See BRIEFS, Page 5

Maybe it takes a psychiatrist to find it, but everyone has a streak of sanity in them somewhere.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro ISD board votes unanimously to call for \$188,686,000 bond election

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Socorro school district student population has doubled over the past 10 years. With no relief in sight, the Socorro ISD board of trustees considered the final input on Tuesday night and cast a unanimous vote to bring a \$188,680,000 bond election to voters of the district on Jan. 24.

When the final vote was taken, following a lively discussion of questions and answers, the packed house rose in a standing ovation.

The bond proposal will enable the district to build nine new schools, an Education Center and complete a number of additions, renovations and major improvements at existing campuses.

The bond was recommended by the SISD Facilities Advisory Committee made up of parents and community members. Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron said he is confident that the SISD voters as a whole understand the needs of the district, and several opportunities will be presented for public questions and answers.

Two public meetings will be held on Jan. 7, one at Socorro High at 6 p.m. and one at Americas at 7:30 p.m. Two more will follow on Jan. 8, at Montwood at 6 p.m. and at El Dorado at 7:30.

Community members with questions may call the Bond hotline at 937-BOND or visit www.sisd.net.

LVWD considers manager at special board meeting

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Lower Valley Water District held a special meeting on Monday, Nov. 17 with only one agenda item: to evaluate General Manager Arturo "Tury" Duran.

However, following an extensive period in executive session, the board adjourned after tabling the item.

The agenda item included the "review and possible action on terms of employment, to include compensation review, issue of continued employment and period thereof" for Duran who took over management of the district in July of 2000.

Over the past three years, Duran's financial and negotiating skills have not gone unnoticed or unrewarded. In February of this year he was appointed by Gov. George W. Bush to serve on the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and was presented the Texas 2003 Business-

man of the Year Award by the National Republican Congressional Committee in an awards luncheon in Washington, D.C. in March. He also participated in the Congressional Tax Summit on the President's economic stimulus plan.

Over the past three years, however, Duran has also made significant contributions to financial health and viability of the LVWD as a public utility.

In the summer of 2000 when Duran took office, the LVWD was running as much as \$100,000 a month in the debt, plagued by mismanagement and low public opinion due to criminal charges being filed against members of the board of directors.

However, Duran negotiated a contract with the El Paso Public Service Board that provided



"Tury" Duran

See LVWD, Page 6

Special public meeting in Alpine to discuss GLO water development and the Rio Nuevo proposal

WEST TEXAS — Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson will chair a public meeting of the School Land Board at Alpine ISD Administration Auditorium, 704 W. Sul Ross Ave., in Alpine, on Tuesday, Dec. 2 to hear public input on water development — specifically, the Rio Nuevo proposal to lease state land for the purpose of mining and selling ground water from West Texas aquifers.

This is the first special Land Board meeting outside of Austin held since Patterson took office in January, prompted by public reaction to ongoing negotiations with the Midland-based Rio Nuevo on their West Texas water development proposal.

At the meeting, GLO staff will make a presentation on concepts and guidelines for water development on state-owned land in West Texas. Officials with Rio Nuevo Ltd. are also expected to make a presentation about their lease application before the board.

Following the presentations, Commissioner Patterson and the Board will hear public testimony on the issue. Those interested may make comments at the hearing, or submit written comments in advance.

GLO staff, in particular Patterson himself,

have been invited to attend the Far West Regional Water Planning Group meeting in Van Horn on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. to present information on the GLO's water policy and take questions as time allows.

One GLO staff member, Jeffrey Frank, is currently a non-voting member of the group.

A Web page with information on the Texas General Land Office and water development, is at www.glo.state.tx.us/water.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has announced the formation of two water issue related committees to study state policy regarding ground and surface water policies.

A Senate Select Committee on Water Policy will study issues regarding Texas' management and policy concerning ground and surface water resources, chaired by Sen. Ken Armbrister, and made up of Sen. Kip Averitt, Sen. Bob Deuell, Sen. Robert Duncan, Sen. Troy Fraser, Sen. Jon Lindsay, Sen. Eddie Lucio, Sen. Frank Madla, Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, Sen. Todd Staples, and Sen. Tommy Williams.

A Subcommittee on the Lease of State

See WATER, Page 8

Canutillo's Cooper creates Thanksgiving baskets for needy

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Elementary School Physical Education Teacher Kenny Cooper doesn't want anyone in the Upper Valley to go without a Thanksgiving dinner this year. So, he is mobilizing his students and fellow teachers into action once again.

Coach Cooper will spearhead Project Harmony, an effort launched by Cooper four years ago, to provide food baskets to needy families in the Upper Valley school district. Last year, more than 200 food baskets were distributed.

"Project Harmony is an enthusiastic heart-felt event where the community -students, families, school staff, and businesses- work hand in hand collecting, providing, and creating these wonderful baskets acknowledging that there are those who are in need within our own community," said Coach Cooper.

Cooper receives a lot of help from parent volunteers, his students, and fellow P.E. teachers Lillian Lopez and Lura Beets-Lane. Cooper visits with businesses throughout El Paso to ask for donations of food items, trucks them to CES's coaches office, where everyone pitches in to make the Thanksgiving Day baskets.

"Several business persons know me by now, and I have tremendous response from everyone I contact," Cooper said. "I hope we can expand our food baskets to 300 families this year," he added.

For more information, contact Cooper, at any of these numbers: 877-2836, 877-7600 or 373-8868.

Horizon fire department receives grant from FEMA

HORIZON CITY — The El Paso County Emergency Services District #1, home of the Horizon City Fire Department, has received a grant of \$168,300 from the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The award, part of \$750 million being distributed to over 7,000 fire departments in 2003, will be used by the Horizon Fire Department to purchase a ventilation system and additional personal protective equipment.

"Firefighters play a key role in safeguarding America, and these fire grant funds provide first responders with the resources necessary to protect our communities from all hazards," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of FEMA, and assists rural, urban, and suburban fire departments throughout the United States.

The Board of Commissioners, Fire Officers, and firefighters of the EPESD #1 would like to extend a special thank you to Captain Kris Menendez. Without his dedication to the Horizon City Fire Department, this grant award would not have been possible.



By Francis Shrum

Lawmen

On the other hand, some citizenry think that local laws were created to

Living in Horizon over the past 18 years or so, I've had reason to need a police officer from time to time. Each time I did, I found one that handled my situation with wisdom and compassion or, lacking that, at least with courtesy and respect.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of good guys out there wearing the uniform — men I would much rather be carrying the firearm than the guys on the other side.

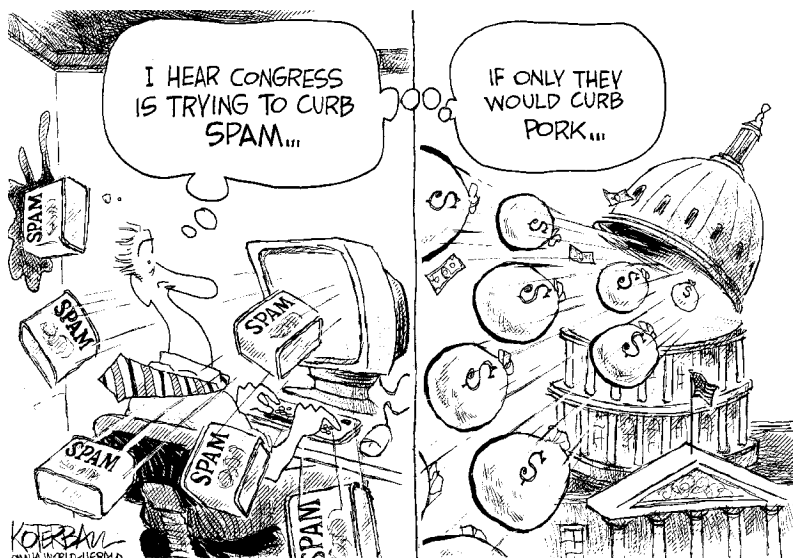


By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

*Diabetes found
in one of four
El Paso County
Hispanic adults*

In 2000, over 2 million Hispanic Americans were diagnosed with diabetes which is twice as common in Mexican-Americans as in Anglos. One in four Hispanic adults in El Paso has diabetes, according to a study by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation and the El Paso Diabetes Association.

Lowering El Paso's diabetes rate will not be easy, but with help from Congress and federal health agencies, hard work from healthcare providers and organizations, and a commitment to healthier lifestyles on the part of people in our community, we can do it.



San Eli ISD wants to transport students until hazardous route is updated

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

Action by the board comes against the background of the tragic death in September of Jose Amparan who died when he tried to cross Saltillo to catch the school bus and was hit by a truck. Amparan was a first-

Superintendent Dr. Mike Quatrini pointed out that the school has been on National Register of Historic Places since 1997. The school, located in the San Elizario Historic District, was designed in 1936 by the

See SEISD, Page 8



**WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER**

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.

ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard



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Newspaper Association**

Homesteader
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News, Inc.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Educating children should be our priority

As we go forward in pursuit of excellence regarding the education of our children, it becomes even more timely that we, as Texans, become totally engrossed and focused on our primary to find ways to finance our public education system. We need to create a system that will not only be fair to every student in Texas, but one that can become a model for the rest of the world.

That's why I was so surprised and pleased that Texas State Rep. Kent Grusendorf came to El Paso. Grusendorf is chairman of a committee set up by Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick to study the issue of funding public education. Grusendorf has been working hard to insure that every player in the public education system has a chance to make his or her feelings known. This, of course, must include my constituents. I need to know what you think is the best way to fund public education.

Grusendorf, who came to our beautiful city last Wednesday and Thursday, discussed with area superintendents and other local education leaders ways in which we can fix the mess in which our school system finds itself.

As a former educator — I was a superintendent for the Socorro ISD for more than 30 years — I am very pleased that Grusendorf accepted my invitation to come to El Paso. Educating those of our students who live alongside the U.S.-Mexico border is especially important. Fortunately, Grusendorf also understands the need for bilingual education and has asked me to become involved with the revamping of bilingual education legislation.

I am also pleased that earlier this year Craddick followed my advice to appoint a Hispanic Legislator to the blue-ribbon panel charged with making recommendations for improving the system. Craddick named our very capable State Rep. Norma Chavez to this important post.

Although I continue to be concerned with the proposed elimination of the so-called Robin Hood system of financing public education without having something to replace it, I am also hopeful that we can reach an agreement to ensure that every child in Texas receives a quality education. If Robin Hood — which takes money from property wealthy school districts, and distributes it to property poor school districts — is going to end, then we must find something else to give the State of Texas the best educational system in the world.

I invite and encourage every voter in my District 75 to let me know your ideas for revamping our public education financing. No idea is without merit. Unless I hear from you, how will I be able to make your feelings known to Rep. Grusendorf, Rep. Craddick or to other house members?

I also want to thank Jimmy Vasquez, Region 19 Executive Director, for his support, expertise, and commitment to securing equitable funding for all public schools across Texas. He was Superintendent of the Edgewood ISD, when that school district became famous statewide for the Edgewood vs. Kirby lawsuit which equalized funding for education in Texas. Thanks to this lawsuit, our public school system became the most equitable it has ever been.

Thank you, and I remain, Chente for la gente

THE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore. In 1930, the city of Grand Saline built a 12' x 12' house made entirely of salt.



Write stuff

Dear Editor:

As a concerned resident I attended the special meeting of the Socorro City Council on Nov. 17, at which an item was to be introduced in regards to the Municipal Police Dept. The city attorney sponsored this item. The question has been, since when has the police department been in legal existence since the Socorro Charter was adopted on Nov. 6, 2001?

The attorney could not provide an answer to this and took over the floor taking my time to ask questions.

Also, I questions the actions the

city attorney is taking, in that in the Charter the attorney's duties are clearly defined. However, this city attorney believes that she is an elected official and is conducting herself as a city representative and is conducting city business as such at these meetings.

Another issue, the appointment of Civil Service Commissioners was addressed, of which the city attorney was also a sponsor. The Mayor clearly stated and provided the minutes of previous meetings acknowledging the one open seat for one com-

missioner. Why were there two names waiting for confirmation for only one seat on the commission? Again, the city attorney took over the issue.

Is the city attorney an elected official? Is the city attorney violating the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct?

According to the Charter of the City of Socorro, Article IV, Section 4.03: "The City Council shall appoint an attorney(s)... The City Attorney(s) shall serve at the will and pleasure of the City Council and may be terminated at any time."

Veneranda Soltero
Socorro

HCPD to participate in high-visibility enforcement

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The public knows they should buckle up.

However, research shows that many are not taking the necessary steps to protect themselves and their children on every ride. Enforcing the law is the most effective way to change this behavior — that is why the Horizon City Police Dept. will participate in Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign Click It or Ticket Mobilization. This nationally coordinated effort involves two enforcement waves per year — in May and November.

Since these Mobilizations began:

- Child fatalities have dropped by more than 20 percent.
- Child restraint use for infants under one has gone from 85 percent to 99 percent, and restraint use among toddlers, ages 1-4, has jumped even more dramatically from 60 to 94 percent.
- Adult seat belt use rose from 62 percent to 79 percent, the highest use rate ever, with more than 50 million Americans buckling up.

Mobilization is based on a highly effective law enforcement model, called the Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), that has been developed and used with success in several states across the country. It combines periodic waves of stepped-up enforcement of seat belt and child passenger safety laws with aggressive publicity highlighting the enforcement.

The Horizon City Police Department will be participating in this event as it has for the past several years by putting extra officers on the street to show high visibility and pro-active enforcement for safety belt violations.

"You can expect to get pulled over if you are not wearing your safety belt," said HCPD Sgt. Ron Swenson, "we will have extra patrol officers on the street for the holidays and specifically targeting those violators."

The Horizon City Police Department is also participating in the Na-

tional Enforcement Campaign: You Drink and Drive. You Lose. Again, we will be out in full force looking for intoxicated offenses and enforcing them with a zero tolerance attitude. This enforcement campaign will be from Dec. 19 to Jan. 4. "The main issues we are addressing and are going to be enforcing strictly are safety belts and sober drivers", said Sgt. Ron Swenson. "If you are not wearing your safety belt or are driving under the influence and we don't stop you some other law enforcement agency will!"

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., Friday, December 5, 2003 in the boardroom of the San Elizaio 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: 11/20/03 & 11/27/03

Hola mi gente y...



...Happy
Thanksgiving

Please give thanks this holiday for the men and women that serve our country and protect this nation.

Pray that our fellow Texans and all the other fine men and women of this great nation giving service will come home safely.

— Chente Quintanilla
State Rep., District 75

Pol. Ad Paid For By Hector Delgado, Treasurer; 3120 High Point, El Paso, TX 79904

www.wtccourier.com

PUBLIC MEETING

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a **PUBLIC MEETING on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2003, at 9:00 A.M., at The El Paso MPO Office, c/o The Gateway Business Center, 10767 Gateway Blvd. West, Suite 605, El Paso, Texas 79935.** A copy of the agenda can be found on our Web Page at <http://www.elpasompo.org>. For more information contact the MPO Office at (915) 591-9735, Ext. 11.

WTCC: 11/20/03

Town of Anthony PUBLIC NOTICE

THE TOWN OF ANTHONY adopted the following ordinances on Tuesday, november 11, 2003:

- 1) Ordinance No. 416. Ordinance Establishing a FOUR-WAY STOP at the Intersection of Jefferson and Second St. within the Town of Anthony, Texas;
- 2) Ordinance No. 417. Ordinance authorizing a NO PARKING ZONE with signage at the intersection of 6TH St. and Cedar St. within the Town of Anthony, Texas.

Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Town Clerk at the above address. Those that are unable to attend may submit their written comments to the Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 886-3944.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 11/20/03

Town of Anthony PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25, 2003 during the Regular Town Council Meeting at Anthony Town Hall, 401 Oak Street, Anthony, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify at the hearing regarding the following proposed ordinance(s) (second reading):

- 1) Ordinance No. 418, an ordinance regulating the LOCATION OF ADULT BUSINESSES within the Town of Anthony, Texas;
- 2) Ordinance No. 419, an ordinance requiring a BUILDING PERMIT for the CONSTRUCTION or ALTERATION of ANY BUILDING within the Town Limits of Anthony, Texas; and requiring the PAYMENT of a PERMIT FEE and PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR ANY VIOLATION of this ordinance. This ordinance repeals Ordinance Nos. 305-6-A and 340.

Ordinances are too extensive to print. Ordinances are always available for viewing or copying upon request from the Town Clerk at the above address. Those that are unable to attend may submit their written comments to the Town of Anthony, P.O. Box 1269, Anthony, Texas 79821. Persons in need of assistance to attend are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk at 886-3944.

Myriam P. Uribe
Town Clerk

WTCC: 11/20/03

Horizon City hires a city planner, moves ahead with annexation

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — When Mayor Diane Whitty was elected, she said she wanted to make Horizon City something more than just a city located in the outskirts of El Paso, Texas — a feat she hoped to accomplish with the help of a City Planner. That planner was introduced by John Dixon, Director of Public Works, at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Nov. 11.

Ed Hamlin accepted the appointment to this newly created position initiated by Mayor Whitty. Dixon said he believes Hamlin will give Horizon City a vision of what the growth can be.

“Mr. Hamlin has many credentials which would make him a viable candidate for a successful city planner,” Dixon said.

Alderwoman Bethany Sellers addressed City Council as a concerned citizen to express her opposition of the hiring of a city planner. She feels the budget is much too tight to be filling that position at this time even though it is only on a part-time basis.

Sellers said time and time again the administration continues to state how there is not enough money in the budget for other issues, yet the city goes on to hire a City Planner. Dixon reminded Sellers this position was budgeted for.

Hamlin voiced his excitement about being selected as the city planner. His said goal is to make Horizon City a chosen destination to visit, not just a place visitors just happen to stop at.

The cost to the city will be around \$22,000 a year and Hamlin will be restricted to working no more than 20 hours a week.

In other business, a public hearing was held regarding the proposed annexation of three parcels of land. The combined three parcels looking to be annexed is a total of 449.72 acres of land, east of Horizon City. Risher Gilbert, a concerned land developer, asked council if this annexation is going to cause the city’s public services to be stretched thinner than it already is.

Howard Buck voiced his approval of the annexation stating the annexation can do nothing but help any development that develops in the city. Former Mayor Walt Lee also expressed his approval of the annexation, adding that the land being annexed will have the luxury of having ordinances enforced not currently being enforced by the County of El Paso.

Thanksgiving Feast

Thursday, November 27 • Noon to 10^{PM}

Roast Turkey • Fried Chicken • Glazed Ham • Pork Chops • Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Cornbread Dressing • Candied Yams • Corn on the Cob
Green Beans • Cranberry Sauce • Hot Bread • Soup and Salad Bar • Pumpkin Pie

Adults \$8⁹⁹ • Children \$4⁹⁹

Happy Thanksgiving

Open 24 hours — Full family menus plus spectacular buffet and salad bar. I-10 at Horizon Blvd., 859-1906.

Stopping Centers
The Quality Difference

Men's Basketball

Saturday, November 22 vs. Texas Permian Basin at 7:05 PM

First 1,000 Fans will receive a \$1.00 Hot Dog coupon

Monday, November 24 vs. Sul Ross State at 7:05 PM

First 1,000 Fans will receive a \$1.00 pretzel coupon

Think Orange, Wear Orange!

BASKETBALL IS BACK IN EL PASO

Season tickets on sale now! Call 747-6150

Special ceremony
in Clint honors
unforgotten heroes

CLINT — A special Veteran’s Day Assembly was held on Nov. 11 at Clint Junior High School, a high light of which was to honor four World War II veterans who live in Clint and attended the ceremony.

Sponsored by the CJHS Father/Son and Mother/Daughter programs, the assembly provided an occasion for the program participants to “adopt” about 29 local veterans, and present them with certificates of appreciation. Each was introduced by a CJHS student and a brief account of their military service was given.

Gilbert Alarcon Sr., Albert Hanmoore, Pedro Hernandez and Pete Eveler were give special honor as surviving veterans of World War II, with mention made of Jose Alarcon, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

Armando Hernandez, a teacher at CJHS, gave a chronicle on each of these veterans.

Two young men who are currently serving in the military were noted: Carlos Murillo was at the ceremony while on two-week leave from Iraq, and Manuel Montes, stationed at Ft. Bilss, has seen action in Iraq.

A special appreciation letter was presented to Helen Rojas from the group in remembrance of her father, Gilberto Vargas, who passed away early this year. He served during WWII in the Philippines and received a Purple Heart due to wounds received during the war.

San Elizario patriotism shone brighter than Indian summer sun

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — The Indian summer sun gave the day a bronze hue straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Hands saluted; hands were held. Smiles on children’s faces were as common as the tears of remembrance from their parents and grandparents.

A town, county and nation celebrated Veteran’s Day in San Elizario, Nov. 11, 2003.

The celebration started with a veteran’s memorial service at the San Elizario Cemetery, where U.S. Congressman Silvestre Reyes, represented by Gilberto Cardenas, donated a U.S. flag to Vietnam veteran Ramon Borrego. Borrego Elementary School in San Elizario is named after Ramon’s father, Alfonso.

State Rep. Chente Quintanilla was in attendance and gave Borrego the Texas flag. County Commissioner Miguel Teran also took part in the ceremonies.

After the memorial ceremony, a

parade from the cemetery made it’s way through town with hands waving, horns honking, and sirens flashing . The procession eventually made its way to Veteran’s Memorial Plaza, or “La Placita,” as San Elizario residents call it.

The San Elizario Presidio provided a majestic backdrop for perhaps the most exciting events of the afternoon, the unveiling of a memorial plaque in honor of PFC Ruben Estrella Soto, who was one of nine soldiers killed in action in the battle of Nazarilla, Iraq. Estrella’s parents were in attendance to accept the honor as hundreds of community members supported them.

Also supporting the family was CPT Troy King, Commander of the 507th Maintenance Company, Sergeant Major Kevin McGovern of the 552nd Battalion, which oversees the



SALUTE — A group of veterans present the colors in San Elizario.

507th, SGT M a t h e w Rhodes of the 507th, and CPL Damin Luter, who was Estrella’s squad leader. Each had poignant words to say during the ceremony.

According to Commissioner Teran, the day was a time for reflection and a day to honor the men and women who served this country. But he was mostly impressed with the community’s involvement in putting on an event that just keeps getting bigger for the 7th year in a row.

“The beauty of this ceremony is that it is a community initiative with volunteers from this community,” Teran said. “That’s also the beauty of this area, there’s a lot of involvement here.”

Community involvement was evident. Cadets in the San Elizario High School NJROTC proudly played key roles throughout the ceremony, whether it was folding the U.S. flag for Ramon Borrego or marching in the parade. Cadet Adrian Payan read the meaning of TAPS during the memorial ceremony and the San Elizario High school band marched with pride. Even the Sambrano Elementary cheerleaders waved and cheered from the back of a trailer in support of our country’s veterans.

According to retired Army veteran and co-master of ceremonies Ramon Holguin, there is a special significance for celebrating Veteran’s Day in San Elizario.

“I think people in this part of our county, our involvement as veterans in this community goes back 70 or 80 years,” said Holguin. “In all the wars we’ve ever had, this community has provided soldiers for every branch of the military.”

Holguin added that pride runs deep in this community, which is why even when the American flags in the “placita” were taken down at the end of the day, when the Indian summer sun made its descent, the pride of the San Elizario community still shined.

Happy Thanksgiving

From Congressman Silvestre Reyes



Let’s remember to be thankful for the good gifts of life we enjoy in America as Americans.

And, in our giving of thanks, we are thankful for and need to especially remember our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other places throughout the world who are defending freedom!

— Congressman Silvestre Reyes

Briefs

From Page 1

and the Clarke Middle School Choir students. Then, on Thursday, Dec. 11, the Americas High School Orchestra will have its annual Holiday Orchestra Concert, also at 6:30 p.m. in the Theater. For information on these events contact Daniel Rivera at 937-2800.

■ The El Paso County Sheriff’s Office is a partner in the Texas Department of Transportation Education and Enforcement initiative “Click It or Ticket Program” which runs through Sunday, Nov. 30. The Sheriff’s Office has assigned approximately 20 Deputies to the “Click It or Ticket,” team which is focused on enforcing safety belt laws. The Deputies will work targeted shifts.

■ Americas High School Dance Department will present a very special Christmas Dance Recital on Monday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Theater. Public is invited and admission is \$3.00. For further information contact Monica Perez at 937-2800.

■ The Oz Glaze Senior Center will host a Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 23, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meal with all the fixings will be provided at \$7.50 donation per adult, \$3.50 for children under 12.

Never mind the football blues — UTEP basketball is back in a big way

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

There are times when we are able to see into the future. Times when certain events reveal what is real or what is about to become real.

One of those crossroads events that come along every so often and will be talked about for years to come, happened last Saturday at the Don Haskins Center.

The Harlem Globetrotters came to town.

Not the Harlem Globetrotters that bring along their own props, referees and opponents. This was a real game, no confetti, no flat basketballs — and no referees had their pants pulled down.

This was a competitive group of Globetrotters that have been traveling the United States leaving a trail of beaten college teams in their wake.

This collection of ex-college stars and NBA players has orchestrated huge wins over perennial college bullies such as Syracuse, Michigan State and U. Mass.

This is a formidable squad. When the Globetrotters came out of the locker room to warm up I wasn't worried about the Miners getting beat, I was worried about the Miners getting killed — literally!

These guys were as wide as they were tall. This was another league of basketball altogether.

It's a giant step up. The Globetrotters came into the game a step above every college team in the country.

And in the first moments of the game, it showed. The Miners trailed 14-4 and looked like they knew they were in over their young heads.

But it was three young guys that took the initiative on the court for UTEP. Jason Williams, Filiberto Rivera and Omar Thomas, all first-year Miners, decided to run the court with the Globetrotters and, believe it or not, they began to out-NBA the

professionals.

The Miners fought back to trail by just two points at half-time and that was a feat in itself. With 10 minutes to go in the game I noticed that the Miners weren't getting pummeled to the ground, they were within five.

The closer the game got to the end the more the Miners started to believe that they, and not Syracuse or Michigan State or U. Mass, had a chance to actually defeat the talented Globetrotters.

And remarkably, amid a noise that hasn't been heard at "The Don" since the days of Ellenberger and the Lobos, Majerus and Utah and Danny Ainge and those nasty BYU Cougars, there were the Miners putting forth a miraculous effort.

And when the Trotters' final shot rolled off the rim, giving UTEP an 89-88 victory, everyone knew — Miners basketball was back!

And one thing is undeniable — UTEP will not play another college team any tougher than these Globetrotters all season.

What this game against the

Globetrotters gave El Pasoans was a glimpse into the future.

And the future is Jason Williams, Filiberto Rivera and Omar Thomas.

Williams scored 19 points and added eight rebounds and some stingy defense. Rivera scored 16 points and dished out five assists and didn't turn the ball over once. Thomas added 16 points and pulled down seven rebounds.

The game was an exhibition and didn't really mean anything, and yet it meant everything.

After winning just six games last season, coach Billy Gillispie has already proven that he not only can recruit, he can also motivate and coach.

This UTEP team resembles all the great Don Haskins teams with one big exception. Yes, they play that tough, in-your-face brand of defense, but this team does not shy away from the fast break. And they run the break to perfection. Gillispie has said that

whenever they get the chance these Miners will push it up the court.

The only real weakness this team has is rebounding. Not because they don't have the desire or the hustle, but because they just don't have the size.

But the Miners, who were out-rebounded 44-29 by the Globetrotters, still managed to pull out the win.

The UTEP basketball team, unlike their football counterparts, have already shown that they have not just improved, they are a team to taken very seriously.

Get ready, El Paso. Miner basketball is back in a big way.

Fans around here have stored away about three years worth of frustrated energy that they will finally have a chance to unleash this year.

I'm not saying that the Miners will play so well that they may contend for the WAC championship — but I'm not saying they won't, either.

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LVWD From Page 1

water to the district at a far more favorable rate, has established an in-house solid waste disposal collection program, and instituted other financial management programs that, by January of 2002, had already saved the district \$1.5 million over a six-month period.

This was the first such evaluation the board of directors has had of Duran during his three and a half years of employment. Though Duran requested the evaluation take place in open session, the board declined and went into executive session, with the lawyer for the district, Phil Bowen. Both Duran and Bowen were in and out of the executive session several times for varying lengths of time.

Board members Alice Fresquez, Henry Trujillo, Rosalinda Vigil, Mario Aguilar and Raul Diaz were

all present for the session.

Though the district has fared better financially and operationally over the last three years, the district may not yet be out of the woods.

Mismanagement of water projects — paid with public funds — that were undertaken before Duran became manager may still present difficulties for the sitting board.

Sources outside the district have confirmed that board-approved water lines were laid across property where easements had not been granted and that the line had benefit to at least one member of the board of directors.

When the property was later prepared for development, the LVWD was forced to abandon the improperly laid line, resulting in thousands of dollars loss in infrastructure expenditure.

Duran declined to comment on the project, only to confirm that the project in question was undertaken previous to 2000.

COMMUNITY INVITED — Shown cutting the ceremonial red ribbon above at the parent's center grand opening is, from left, James Blake, principal of TJHS. Rudy Barreda assistant superintendent of TISD and Gracie Quintanilla, wife of Chente Quintanilla, State Rep. for the 75th district.

Tornillo ISD opens new parent center

TORNILLO — Tornillo Junior High school hosted the grand opening of the district's parent center on Nov. 3. This project was a joint venture between Tornillo JHS and the district's migrant program. The goal of the center is to provide parents and community with activities ranging from literacy programs, sewing, computer applications and arts and crafts. The center will also provide a calendar of speakers based on community interest.

The speakers at the grand opening were from planned parenthood and alcoholics anonymous. The calendar for the balance of the month of November and December will reflect community concerns and interests.

— Contributed by Sergio R. Morales

King Super Crossword

FEAST WITHOUT FINISH ACROSS

1 Drinks like a dachshund

5 Faction

9 Plays for pay

13 Macadamizes

18 Modern

Mesopotamia

19 Holy headgear

20 Blow

21 Shakespearean setting

22 "Swan Lake" skirt

23 Thames town

24 Rational

25 In a macabre manner

26 Start of a remark by Linda Perret

30 Stain

31 Request

32 Famed loch

33 Part 2 of remark

37 Picnic crasher?

38 Ordered

40 Mosaic bit

44 Fiddling emperor

45 Bathday cake?

47 Yearning

49 He'll give you a squeeze

50 Pianist Gould

52 Luau instrument

53 Vice follower

54 Swerves

56 Wapiti

57 Sicilian rumbler

59 Wyeth subject

60 Kind of soup

61 Urban problem

62 Team scream

63 Isinglass

66 Liquid measure

67 Part 3 of remark

73 Krishna

74 Parka feature

75 Take in

76 Banister

77 Racetracks

79 Onion roll

81 Office plant

82 Nile slitherer

85 58 Down, for one

86 Ladd or Lane

87 canto

88 Scout rank

90 Vane dir.

91 A bit brisk

93 Birds of prey

95 Marble feature

96 Weaver's need

98 Mellows

99 Humongous

101 Part 4 of remark

103 Beige

105 Beige

106 Prepare to shoot

107 End of remark

115 Ooze

117 Dr. (Austin Powers' nemesis)

118 Poverty

119 TV's "People"

121 Kitchen implement

122 Romeo or Juliet

123 " homo"

124 Emilia's husband

125 Llama turf

126 Just

127 do-well

128 Field of study

DOWN

1 Ignited

2 In (bored)

3 Walkway

4 Military unit

5 Israeli coins

6 Savors the stuffing

7 Type of shoe

8 Basil or Morrison

9 Lend a hand

10 Metallic sound

11 Sharp taste

12 Rushed

13 Hammer parts

14 Put the cuffs on

15 dire (oath)

16 Photographer's abbr.

17 For instance

21 Thin covering

27 Manhattan coll.

28 Jerry Dyke

29 Tagore's homeland

33 "Picnic" playwright

34 Bear's advice

35 Arduous journey

36 "Too Go Steady" ('56 song)

37 Fossey's friend

38 "Wild Strawberries"

director

39 Descend upon

41 Michener opus

42 Poet Amy

43 Atelier items

46 Police acronym

47 Opera's Mario Monaco

48 Sixth sense

51 Verne captain

53 Chariot or tricycle

55 Kind of pudding

58 Peter of reggae

59 Witch

61 Food fish

62 Some tires

64 Tenor Franco

65 Out of range

67 Difficult

68 Cigar city

69 Crossworder's need

70 Portable

71 Like Marvell's mistress

72 You can dig it

78 Cul-de

80 Some

81 Not many

82 "A Death in the Family" author

83 Lingerie item

84 School supplies

86 Unearth

87 Marsh

89 Schubert song

92 '66 Paul Newman film

94 Car part

97 Crewel tool

99 Musical Pearl

100 Hostelry

102 Baby butter

104 Circus sights

105 Sing like Sutherland

107 Wished undone

108 Architect Saarinen

109 Connecticut town

110 Actress Verdon

111 Mirror image?

112 Fairy-tale start

113 1492, e.g.

114 Wise guy?

115 Health club

116 Ford of football

120 Mauna

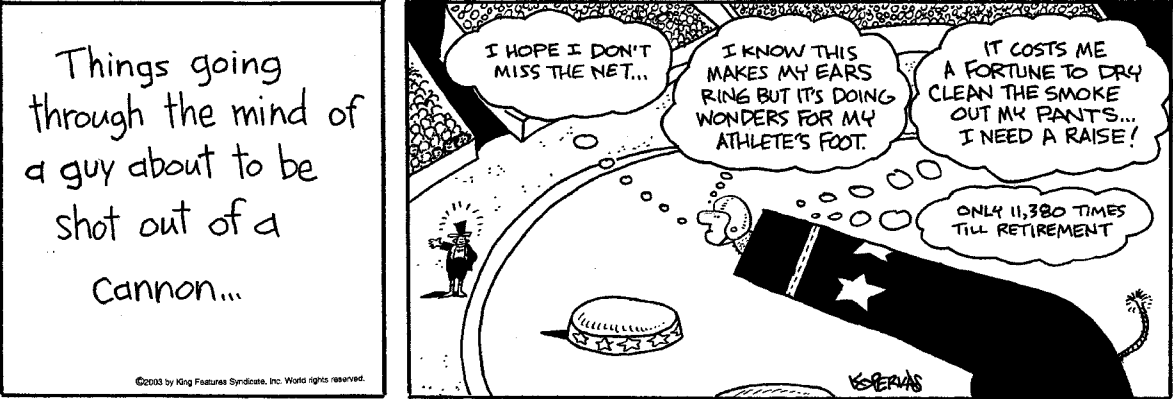
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Answer Page 7

Comix

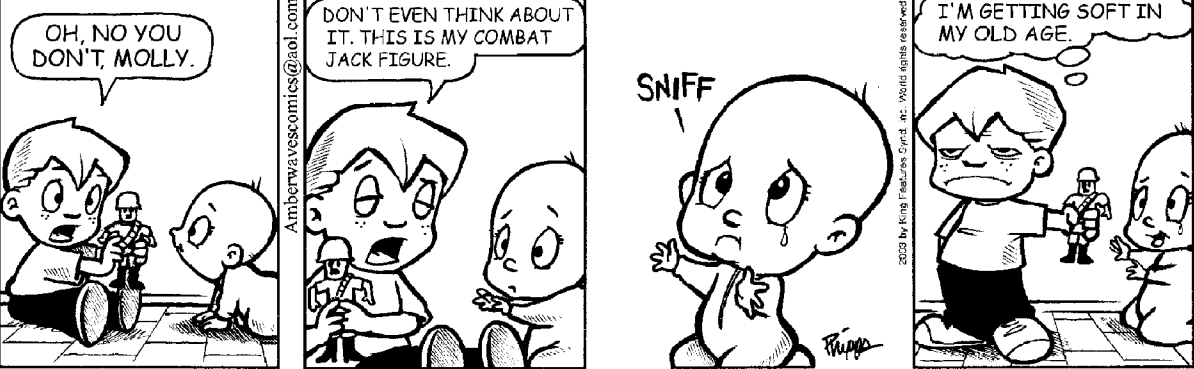
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



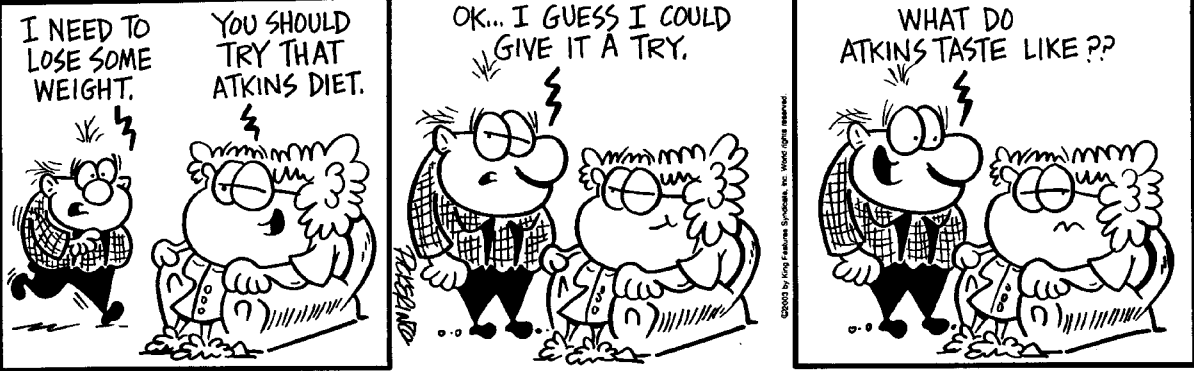
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



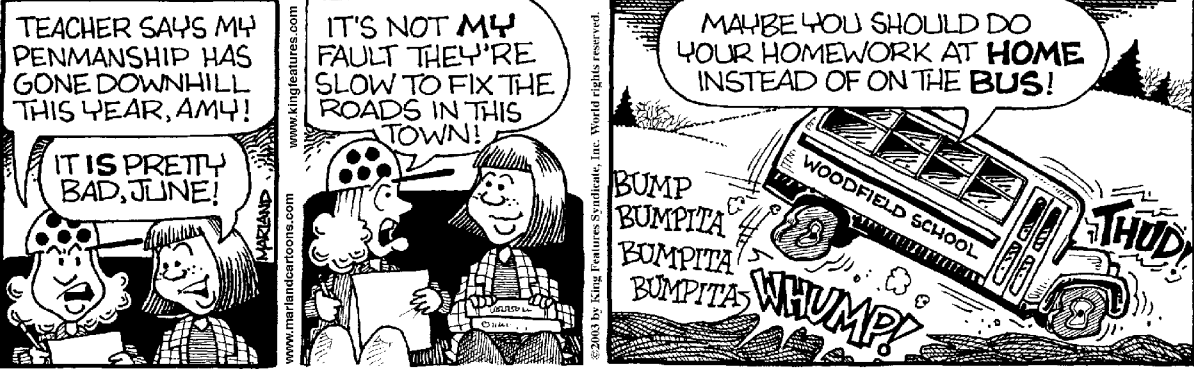
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Stars step in where others have failed

By Don Flood

In our fast-paced world — where many current events are forgotten before they even happen — it has become increasingly hard to provide the meaningful, insightful commentary you’ve come to expect from this column.

This is especially true with earth-shattering, breaking news such as the recent announcement by Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston that they plan to BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

The problem for me is that by the time you read this, Brad and Jennifer may have already wrapped up the final details of lasting Middle East peace and — who knows? — they may be on their way to healing such long-time trouble spots as North Korea, Northern Ireland, Sacramento or the “10 items or less Express” lane at your local grocery store.

In a statement to the press, Pitt and Aniston said, “The past few years of conflict mean that yet another generation of Israelis and Palestinians will grow up in hatred. We cannot allow that to happen.”

Frankly, it’s a shame they’ve allowed the conflict to continue as long as they have, but it’s good to hear Pitt is finally going to leverage the stature he has achieved with films like “The Mexican” in the interest of world peace.

Brad and Jennifer’s plan is to appeal to the two sides’ “ordinary folk.” It might go something like this:

PITT: Hi, I’m Brad Pitt. I am an extremely good-looking but scruffy actor who has appeared in a long series of flops. This is my wife, Jennifer. She’s famous for her work on “Friends” and for her hair. Together, we have come to bring about a lasting peace in the Middle East.

ORDINARY FOLK: I have been waiting for this moment ever since I first saw “Legends of the Fall.” It is time to lay down our arms and live in peace. And, perhaps, your wife can tell us how to perfect the “Rachel” hairstyle.

ANISTON: It’s been some years since I’ve worn that hairstyle but — in the interest of peace — yes, I would be more than happy to bring the “Rachel” to your people.

Brad and Jennifer won’t be alone in their newfound roles as dual Secretaries of State.

Other Hollywood types are lending their star power to the cause. They include Danny DeVito, who learned foreign policy the hard way in his role as the crazed dispatcher on “Taxi,” and Jason Alexander, a supporting actor on “Seinfeld” who has moved up to a lead role in his own series of commercials for KFC.

(At press time, there was no word from the Schwarzenegger administration about whether Brad and Jennifer would continue to represent California as ambassadors to the United States and other foreign countries.)

Cynics may say that, to be successful, diplomacy must be backed by force, and the same is true of the Brad and Jennifer Middle East Peace Initiative.

But if things really bogged down, Brad could always threaten both sides with multiple showings of “Meet Joe Black.”

Hopefully, it won’t come to that.

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LEGALS

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Invitation to Bid

Sealed bids/proposals for asphaltic concrete rehabilitation project on Darrington Road, recycled in place, scarification only. Proposals will be received at 14999 Darrington Road, Horizon City, TX 79928 from 11/20/03 until 11/26/03 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Bids to be opened at above address 12/01/03 at 10 a.m. Details for project are available at the above office. WTCC-11/20/03

NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN - ISI2E9489JE304831, 1988 Stric trailer, white, Maine license plates, A-685630 WTCC-11/20/03

Fabens Independent School District

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby

given that sealed bids for providing all labor and materials for:

FABENS I.S.D. FABENS PRIMARY SCHOOL; ROOFING PROJECT

will be received at the Office of the Executive Director for Maintenance and Operations, Fabens Independent School District, 208 N. E. 4th Street, P. O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838 until 2:00 p.m. local time on Friday, December 12, 2003, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

The successful bidder will be required to complete the project within the time limits set forth

in the Instruction to Bidders and General Specifications, and liquidated damages will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of the date required by the successful bidder to complete the project to the satisfaction of the Owner in accordance with the contract Documents.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Owner, Fabens Independent School District, 821 N. E. G Street, P. O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838. Prior to pick-up in Fabens call 892-6075, prior to pick-up on El Paso's Westside call 892-6102.

A pre-bid meeting

and site visit is scheduled for December 1, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. starting at the Fabens I.S.D. Ben Madrid Maintenance Facility, 208 N. E. 4th Street in Fabens, Texas.

Note that Davis-Bacon Wage Rates, Insurance, and Bonds will be required as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Fabens Independent School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities.

Board of Trustees of the Fabens Independent School District

WTCC: 11/20/03 & 11/20/03

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Water

From Page 1

Water Rights, with the overriding charge to study proposals regarding the lease of permanent school fund and permanent university lands and their water rights for the intent of developing and marketing water, will be chaired by Sen. Madla, with Sen. Duncan, Sen. Fraser, Sen. Lucio, and Sen. Shapleigh appointed as members.

“Ensuring that we have a plentiful supply of water in Texas, not just today but in the future, is critical to our

quality of life, our economy, and our environment, said Lt. Gov. Dewhurst.

“In order to meet our water needs tomorrow, I believe that we must address the way we manage our water resources, and identify solutions for securing and distributing water in the future.”

Among the select committee’s specific charges as they relate to the management and policy concerning ground and surface water are: the role of federal, state, regional, and local governments in setting consistent water policies; the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality over water contracts; the

role of the Edwards Aquifer Authority; the role of groundwater conservation districts; the regional water planning process; the conjunctive use of both ground and surface water resources; the rule of capture; historic use standards; water infrastructure and financing; interbasin transfers; junior water rights; conservation; water quality standards; drought preparedness and water marketing.

The select committee will also monitor the on-going desalination projects by the Texas Water Development Board, to determine how desalination can provide for a cost-effective water source for Texas cities.

SEISD

From Page 2

noted architectural firm of Trost and Trost.

The request for Alarcon’s designation as an Historic Landmark came from the El Paso County Historical Commission. If approved by the school board, the request then goes to the Texas Historical Commission for approval.

The board approved a larger number of district goals for 2003-04. It approved the addition of an 11th goal along with minor changes in wording to the original 10. The 11th calls for adherence “to all local, state and

federal guidelines pertaining to providing a quality education to all students of San Elizario I.S.D.”

Four middle school band students were honored at the board meeting for their achievements at the recent regional band competition.

Eighth-graders Carlos Prieto, bass clarinet; and Denise Ibarra, baritone; were named to the First Band. This was an open competition against all students, not by district. Ibarra was named to first chair.

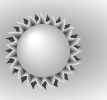




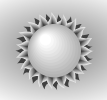

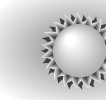
Seventh-graders Iris Carrasco, clarinet; and Kimberly Martinez, French horn; were name to Second Band.

In other action, the board approved the Student Code of Conduct.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Sunny and pleasantly warm.	Clear.	Mostly sunny with a gusty wind.	Mostly cloudy and windy with a shower possible.	Mostly sunny, windy and cooler.	Sunny.	Sun and some clouds.	Sunny.
▲ 70°	▼ 40°	▲ 72° ▼ 46°	▲ 68° ▼ 40°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°	▲ 58° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 30°	▲ 56° ▼ 30°

UV INDEX

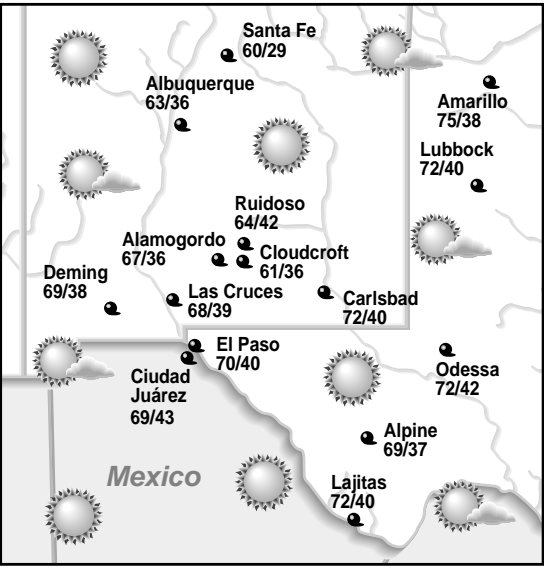
Statistics for noon.

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

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

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	69	41
Canutillo	70	42
Clint	69	43
E. Montana	70	40
Fabens	69	43
Horizon	70	42
San Elizario	67	39
Socorro	69	39
Tornillo	69	43
Vinton	70	42




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	63/36/s	60/36/s	53/30/c	46/24/s	48/24/s
Atlanta	62/42/pc	66/50/s	70/52/s	68/50/s	58/40/c
Atlantic City	52/47/r	56/45/c	64/43/c	62/42/c	59/37/pc
Austin/San Antonio	70/50/s	72/53/s	76/56/pc	74/40/pc	64/42/s
Baltimore	52/44/r	56/44/c	60/46/c	62/46/pc	62/36/pc
Boston	54/48/r	54/48/c	54/42/c	56/42/c	51/37/c
Chicago	58/40/s	60/42/s	56/42/pc	54/36/c	47/24/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	73/50/s	72/54/s	71/58/pc	61/40/pc	56/36/s
Denver	68/32/s	54/26/pc	38/14/c	29/22/c	44/16/pc
Flagstaff	58/30/s	47/24/c	34/16/c	39/11/s	43/16/s
Houston	72/50/s	76/58/s	78/62/pc	76/49/pc	64/39/s
Kansas City	70/44/s	66/46/s	66/44/pc	48/30/c	36/19/pc
Las Vegas	68/48/pc	60/46/pc	54/40/pc	53/36/pc	58/38/s
Miami	77/59/pc	78/63/s	80/65/s	82/67/s	81/68/s
Minneapolis	59/38/s	48/34/c	44/32/c	48/36/r	39/17/c
New Orleans	68/50/s	73/55/s	77/60/s	75/58/pc	67/43/c
New York City	53/50/r	55/53/c	56/49/c	56/47/pc	56/43/c
Philadelphia	54/47/r	56/47/c	60/45/c	62/45/pc	59/43/pc
Phoenix	76/51/s	75/49/s	64/42/pc	62/40/s	65/42/s
Portland	46/36/c	44/34/pc	44/32/s	43/34/pc	45/33/c
San Francisco	60/48/pc	56/46/pc	56/42/pc	54/42/s	57/41/pc
Seattle	44/34/c	42/32/pc	42/32/s	43/33/c	45/34/c
Tucson	79/48/s	72/46/s	62/37/pc	60/35/s	64/38/s
Washington, DC	52/48/r	56/46/c	60/48/c	62/48/pc	60/39/pc

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

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