



# WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER



VOL. 31, No. 3      SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO      JANUARY 15, 2004

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Vet benefits

Veterans' prescription drug fees will stay the same in the fiscal year 2005 budget cycle. After strong objections from military and veterans organizations, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has shelved a recent budget proposal increasing retiree cost shares for the TRICARE pharmacy benefit and implementing retiree copays for drugs obtained in military hospitals and clinics. "OMB's proposal compromised the promises this country made to those who put their lives on the line for our freedoms," said Congressman Silvestre Reyes. The Department of Defense will study copay increases and will make recommendations on the fiscal year 2006 budget cycle. "The thousands of veterans who live in El Paso need these TRICARE benefits. I will work closely with the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure that veterans will continue to receive them," said Reyes.

### Water meeting

The Subcommittee on the Lease of State Water Rights will hold its second hearing, in Hudspeth County, at the Dell Telephone Co-op, 610 South Main, Dell City, Texas on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m. The subcommittee is examining the propriety of a proposed lease agreement between the Texas General Land Office and a private Midland company to pump and sell water from aquifers located beneath tracts of state-owned land in West Texas. There will be invited testimony, as well as the opportunity for public testimony.

### In other news:

■ The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is still investigating a one-car accident in the 12200 block of Benedicta in San Elizario on Saturday, Jan. 10. Preliminary reports indicate that the driver of a green 2001 Toyota Corolla lost control of the vehicle which struck a tree, causing the vehicle to swing around and strike a nearby trailer home. There were three passengers in the vehicle, reported traveling south on Borrego Rd. A 14-year-old girl was riding without a seatbelt in the back seat and was injured. She died after transport to Thomason Hospital. No further information was available at presstime.

■ Hueco Elementary School, in the Socorro ISD, turns 20 years old this year, and as a celebration of the event, staff has committed to producing a yearbook in full color. This goal, however, will require assistance from former Hueco students and area sponsorships. Sponsors are needed who can donate \$100 per page for this endeavor. Interested parties who would like to help Hueco Elementary's goal come true can contact Julie Partlow, yearbook

See BRIEFS, Page 5

*People who say they sleep like a baby haven't got one.*

— Quips & Quotes

## Mayor questions legality of special meeting Socorro council holds second meeting to ratify actions taken at the first

*Courier Staff Reports*

SOCORRO — When is a meeting not a meeting? The question was asked on Thursday, Jan. 8, when the Socorro City Council

gathered for a special meeting which had been posted but apparently not officially requested by either the Mayor or a quorum of city council members until minutes before it began.

In an apparent attempt to compensate for the unconventional way in which the Jan. 8 meeting occurred, a subsequent special meeting was

held on Monday, Jan. 12 with only one regular agenda item, which was "ratification of all city council actions taken during the Special Meeting held on Jan. 8, 2004."

Witnesses to the Jan. 8 meeting were surprised when Mayor Irma Sanchez declined to open the meeting. Sanchez said she believed the meeting to be in violation of Sec. 3.07E of the Socorro City Charter, which states that a special meeting can be called or scheduled only by written request of the Mayor and/or three members of the City Council.

At approximately 4:40 p.m. that evening, Sanchez had asked Interim City Clerk Yolanda Rodela, in the presence of witnesses, if any of the council members had turned in the signed requests needed to authorize a special meeting. Rodela said she did not have any requests from council for the meeting which was scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Just after 6:30 p.m. Interim City Manager Reyes Fierro presented Mayor Sanchez with written requests from City Council members Gloria Rodriguez, Gary Gandara and Joe Ramirez. Sanchez replied these requests had been produced "after the fact" and did not constitute a legal request. She then left her council chair and took a seat in the audience.

Fierro's attempt to clear up the question of whether the meeting was legal or not, by presenting Sanchez with the written requests, has apparently only served to further complicate the issue.

Longtime Socorro citizen and community activist Don Davisson, who attended the meeting, has since said he intends to file a complaint with the Sheriff's Department alleging a violation of the Open Meetings Act, because he believes that the three council members who signed the special meeting request documents did so only minutes before the meeting and were all together when they did so, constituting an illegal quorum.

Sources which requested anonymity said that a video tape of the movements of the three council members during the time in question has been given the Sheriff's Dept. as evidence, alleging that it shows formation of an illegal quorum.

Proceeding on the advice of Socorro city attorney Chris Borunda, and another attorney in the audience, Greg Hudson — who both said the meeting was legal — the meeting was opened and conducted by alternate mayor pro-tem Gary Gandara, since mayor pro-tem Sam Brewster was not at the meeting. Brewster has had health problems and at last report was in the hospital.

However, Socorro council prepared and signed four memorandums the following day, on Jan. 9, requesting a special meeting on Jan. 12 to ratify, in one single vote, everything council had voted on Jan. 8, which included final approval of a controversial ordinance to establish the legality of the Socorro Police Dept. — "pursuant to the 1871 Legislation and Section 4.05 of the Socorro City Charter."

However, some city protocol observers question the propriety of an 18-item consent agenda approved by the council on Jan. 8, which grants blanket approval by virtue of a single vote, for several items that would



**DRIVE-THRU — This accident left the driver shaken and carless, and Pepperoni's Pizza and Deli with only one bathroom. The restaurant is open, and in fact, did not miss a day.**

## Car crashes into Horizon restaurant; brake failure says driver

HORIZON CITY — On Jan. 4 at about 9:15 p.m. a 32-year-old woman drove her car into the side of Pepperoni's Restaurant, located at 14020 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City.

Horizon City Police Dept. spokesman Sgt. Ron Swenson said luckily no injuries were reported, yet substantial damage to the building was done.

The 1992 Buick hit the southwest side of the building going through the wall and stopping about halfway into the men's restroom.

The restaurant was closing at the time and no one was in the restroom, said Sgt. Swenson.

Officer A. Flores, who investigated the accident, said that the driver claimed the Buick's brakes had failed at Horizon and Darrington. The driver tried to pull over onto the soft sand near the Horizon Star Bakery, but failed to stop the vehicle, continuing through the parking lot at 14010 Horizon and ended up crashing through the wall of Pepperoni's before stopping. The driver was issued two citations and her car was impounded.

Pepperoni's Restaurant is open and safe for dining, Sgt. Swenson said, the only difference is the woman's restroom is now uni-sex until the damage can be fixed.

## Village of Vinton secures school zone signage

*By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier*

VINTON — Thanks to the efforts of the Village of Vinton mayor and council members, school buses transporting Bill Childress Elementary School students will be able to enter and exit the busy State Highway 20 (Doniphan Drive) more safely.

Vinton Council asked Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in August to consider placing school zone and speed limit signing at the intersection of Cap Carter Road and Doniphan Drive. After conducting a school zone study in the fall, TxDOT concurred with the council's request.

"Of utmost concern was the potential for an accident involving any of the 13 school buses that transport students as they attempt to exit or enter Doniphan from Cap Carter Road and Chicken Farm Road, the two main arterials for traffic to Bill Childress Elementary," stated Antonio Castro Sr., Village of Vinton mayor.

According to a letter from Edgar Fino, TxDOT traffic engineer, TxDOT will install school zone flashers at the intersection of

Doniphan and Cap Carter roads and they will be in effect by the end of January.

"We feel that the slowing down of traffic along this stretch of the highway will go a long way to eliminate the potential for an accident involving any of the school buses during the heavy morning and afternoon traffic," Castro stated. "I want to thank Council member Margarita Payan for helping bring this very



**MORE SECURE TRAFFIC — Work begins on installation of new school zone flashers for Childress Elementary School. Shown from left is Annette Brigham, Childress ES principal; Ernie Ontiveros, CISD Transportation supervisor; Gustavo Chavez, Hardy Hole Drill Company representative; and Antonio Castro, Village of Vinton mayor.**

See VINTON, Page 6

See SOCORRO, Page 4





# One perspective

By Francis Shrum

## A little quiet time

It's been so long since I've done this. Here I am on the porch, lying on the lounge like a lazy old Tom cat, soaking up the mountain sun.

I don't care what happens, I refuse to be disturbed.

Except for my grandboy, age two. He's wanting a bite of my apple. So we work out an apple-share plan and he eats most of it.

Then he moves off.

Thump, thump, thump. His too-big tennies sound like a drum beat on the wooden porch. He's chasing the curly red poodle pup. Thump, thump, thump. She stays about two puppy-lengths ahead, just enough to keep out of his reach in case he makes any sudden moves.

Not likely.

I start to drift off to sleep, dimly conscious of some activity beginning to interfere with my cat nap. Rattle, rattle, bang! Somebody has yanked the cover off of the barbecue grill and begun to remove the racks and briquettes. It's my husband, the dutiful son cleaning his parents' grill in anticipation of future cookouts.

That's all wonderful, I just wish he could be dutiful more quietly.

It's too much work to watch this much work. I turn my gaze away and close my eyes.

"Mama, we're going to walk down to the candy store. What can we buy?"

I don't care, just do it without consulting me, I think, but my mama instinct takes over and we enter into lengthy negotiations about what kind and how much tooth rot will be allowed today. They troop off with all the grace and coordination of a couple of

young bull elephants, rattling the wood porch boards and my peaceful reverie.

The silence descends again and I drift away, only to be awakened by my lovely mother-in-law who believes my lounge needs a larger, puffier pad on it — you know, sort of like the nurse in the hospital who wakes you up to give you a sleeping pill.

I settle into my more comfortable seat, willing to acknowledge that she was right...

Right about now the neighbor's dog decides to visit. He's a big, young dog, probably part Chow, judging by the black spots that adorn this huge pink tongue he's dangling over me. His name is Casper — and he is truly friendly, but the ghost part doesn't fit. He's way too real for that. He likes the fact that there are kids and dogs over here on this porch, and seems attracted to the smell of barbecues past on the grill. He was in trouble earlier today for attempting to wash those smells off in the natural way. I just wish he'd go home.

Thankfully, he doesn't stay long. So many trees. So little time.

I'm just settling in good when my mother-in-law reappears with her beautiful white cockatoo, Roxanna, perched on her arm. She settles in on the lounge next to me and we discuss the fact that neither of us do this very much and how nice it is to have undisturbed quiet time.

Meanwhile, I keep one eye on Roxanna. You might say we have an mutual agreement — I don't trust her and she doesn't trust me. She can snap the buttons off your shirt with her powerful beak without even breaking a sweat.

Imagine what she could do to my

fingers.

Thump, thump, thump. The grandboy is still exactly two puppy-lengths behind the red poodle but he never gives up. Somewhere he has managed to gather up a couple of large stalks of pampas grass and they are losing their cottony fuzz onto my shirt and up my nose as he brushes past.

He stops long enough to announce that Roxanna is white.

About this time the troops come back from the candy store. Seeing me and the cockatoo eyeballing each other, one of them grins an evil grin.

"Ain't she cute, Mama?" she asks.

"From a distance," I say.

They promptly burst into a tuneless rendition of the Bette Midler hit:

*From a distance you look like my friend;*

*Even though we are at war...*

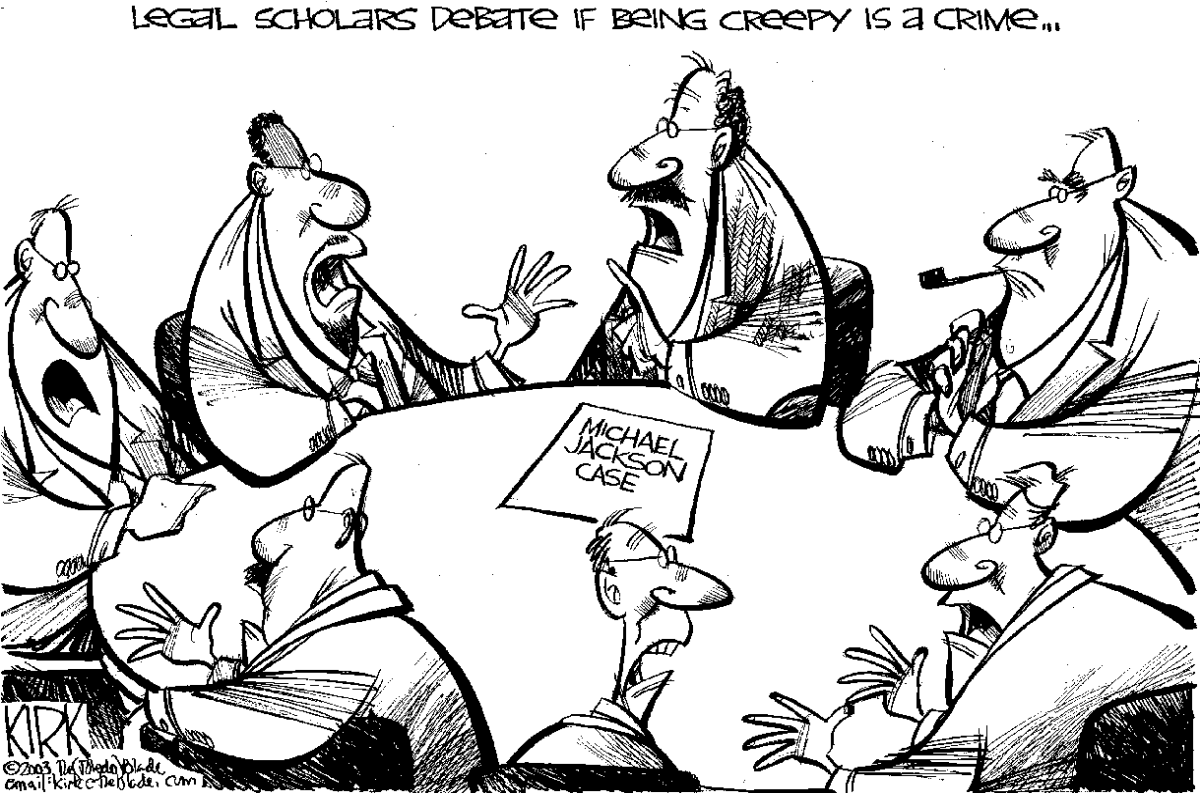
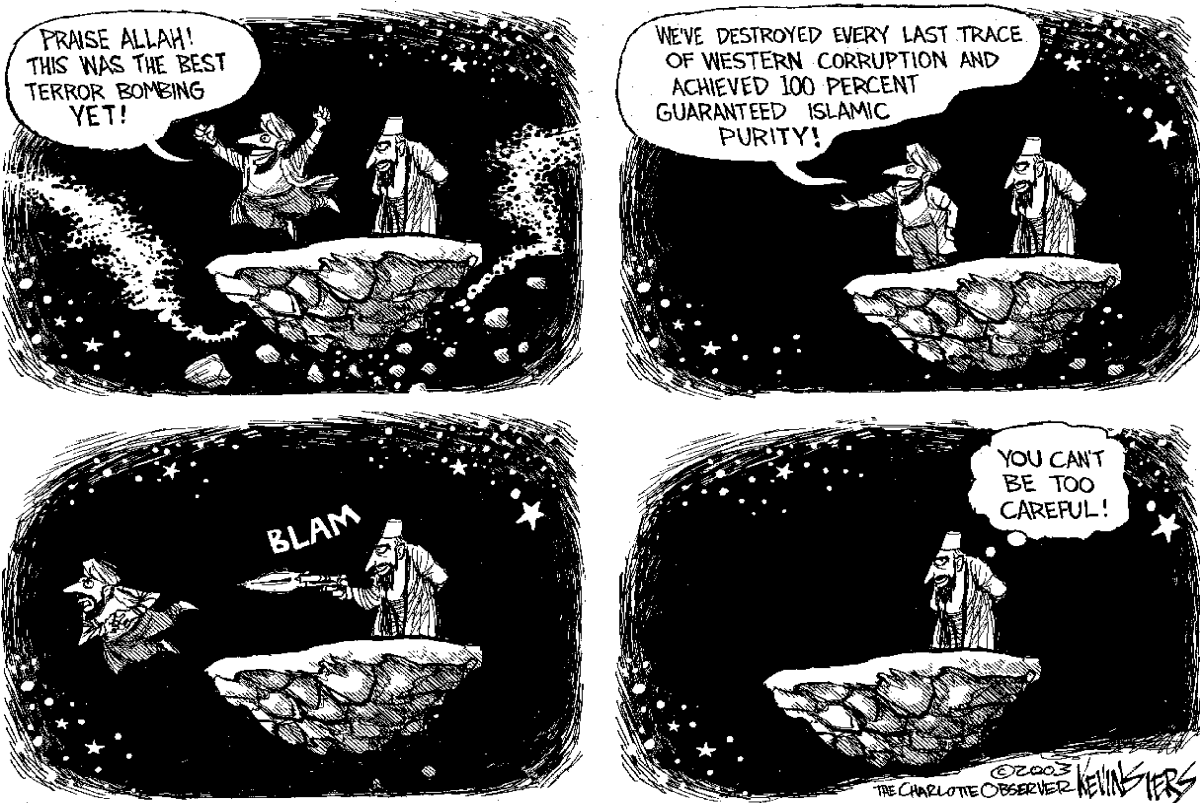
I don't mind a bit when they stomp off the porch. I'd almost wish them a tooth ache except I'm the one who'll have to pay the dental bill.


Over the wooded hillside I can see clouds building on one another, rising high like mutilated cotton balls. A gentle breeze blows through, a tiny hint of winter bite still swathed in its movement.

"I'm going to the hardware store down the hill," comes the romantic invitation from the front door.

"Wanna go?"

*Note: Apologies to fans of the Australian crocodile hunter Steve Irwin. I misspelled his surname in last week's Perspective.*





31 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

SERVING ANTHONY VINTON, CASARELLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FAHNS, SAN ELIZABETH AND TORNILLO

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

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**ADDRESS:**  
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Horizon City, TX 79928


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Est. 1973



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# Cash and prizes up for grabs in third annual Goat Jackpot

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Agricultural science students from West Texas and Southern New Mexico are invited to participate in the Third Annual Canutillo FFA Goat Jackpot, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31, at Canutillo Independent School District's Agricultural Science Center site, 7700 Cap Carter Road, next to Bill Childress Elementary School off of Doniphan Road in the Town of Vinton.

The goat jackpot is hosted by

Canutillo High School FFA student organization and will include Market and Breeding shows and Junior and Senior Peewee shows. Weigh-in begins at 9 a.m. The Breed Goat show will start at 10 a.m. followed by the peewee shows. The Market Goat show will be at 1 p.m. with the awards presentation scheduled for 4 p.m.

Entry fee for the breeding show is \$20 per animal and \$35 per animal for the market show. Judge for the goat shows will be Duffy Galloway, an Ag-science instructor in Hereford, TX.

"Last year we had over 100 par-

ticipants; this year we hope to double the number of participants. We have over \$4,000 in cash and prizes to award," said Ron Gil, Canutillo High School Ag-science teacher and FFA advisor.

Grand champion will receive a goat trailer. Reserve champion will win a metal show box. Premium money will be awarded to first through third place winners in the market class. All contestants will be given free T-shirts. Showmanship buckles will be awarded in both market and breeding meat shows.

The event is open to the public. For more information, call 877-7545.

# Write stuff

Dear Editor:

This \$188.7 million bond issue proposed by the Socorro ISD school board will cause:

- More adminstrators, more police and more political hacks to be hired.
- More non-functional (but beautiful!) buildings.
- More money wasted, especially on non-required courses.
- Schools to be built on land-broker business.
- Developers and contractors to get rich.
- Taxes to rise due to no industrial base.

The teaching of political correct-

ness courses, sexual education courses, and socially approved courses will continue. The 3 R's will suffer. Graduates should be able to enter college directly from high school and not be forced to take many remedial courses.

The developers are responsible for the increase of housing in SISD. They will pormise good schools, cheap water, and cheap housing. They will create communities with no tax base, no jobs and substandard education. They will not have to pay for these bonds.

Mark Connolly  
Horizon City



## Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

### Action on Martin Luther King Jr. Day pays off for some organizations

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy is one of justice, peace and righteousness. His selfless actions and words led the civil rights movement in the United States, exposing the unjust abuses that minorities suffered and influencing major civil rights legislation. His work towards equality touched a generation and inspires compassion and action to this day.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, celebrated on Monday, Jan. 19, is a national holiday set aside to honor the ideals and legacy of Dr. King. While it is a day off from work for many, it is best celebrated as a day of action, as a day promoting King's ideals of equality and peace, helping those less fortunate and improving our communities.

Here in El Paso, we have many community service organizations that are celebrating the real meaning of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and have

been recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) for their efforts. The CNCS is a federal program that provides community service opportunities through the Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. The CNCS recently awarded Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service grants to three El Paso organizations that will provide funding for service projects celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless won \$7,500, which will help the center conduct a county-wide food drive in El Paso on Martin Luther King Day. The food collected will replenish food pantries throughout the county.

UTEP and the Paso del Norte Assets for Youth Americorps program won \$2,650. UTEP and the Assets for Youth program will use this funding to improve three El Paso Salvation Army shelters. The program partici-

pants will paint and clean the shelters, supply towels and blankets for residents, and provide a dinner that shelter residents and UTEP students will attend together. Prior to the event, students will attend workshops focusing on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s goals and the Salvation Army's efforts to address the needs of the homeless in El Paso.

Dr. King's work is not done. Inequality still exists and the world is far from peaceful. However, if we continue the dedication and hard work reminiscent of Dr. King in El Paso and across the country, we can contribute to the world that he envisioned. The Opportunity Center for the Homeless, UTEP and the Paso del Norte Assets for Youth Americorps program — along with many other organizations — are leading the way in El Paso.

Through participation in these and other service projects and dedication to dignity, civil rights and non-violence, we can continue Dr. King's invaluable work.

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## City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 27, 2004 during the Planning Commission meeting at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the following proposed rezoning(s):

- 1) Lot 8, Block 3 Lajolla Subdivision, 118 La Cienega from R-1, Single Family Residential to R-2, Medium Density Residential by Maria del Socorro Hernandez.
- 2) Lot 2, Block 2 Valle Real Subdivision, 501 Brisa Del Valle from R-1, Single Family Residential to RE, Rural Estate by Javier Hernandez.

Yolanda Rodelaa  
Interim City Clerk

WTCC: 01/15/04

## Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

### Public school financing: What's on tap for the new year?

Hola, mi gente — it's been awhile since I last communicated my thoughts to you. This column will do precisely that. My most fervent wish is that everyone of you had a very Merry Christmas, and also enjoy a most prosperous 2004.

I anticipate many great things coming up during this new year. First, however, I want to thank everyone for your outstanding support when the going got tough — as it did during the past Legislative session. You showed that you are behind me in standing up for issues that impact most on our community.

I did not receive a challenger for this upcoming election and we look forward to serving you for another two years. The new session opens in Austin in 2005.

My main objective has been to listen to you, my constituents. I've had my ears open, my heart on the right path, and my intentions have been good. A State Rep. is only as good as

those who support him. If you hadn't supported me in my efforts, I doubt that I could have accomplished as much as I feel I did. I hope you agree with me.

As I understand it, Texas Gov. Rick Perry will probably call a special session so that we can deal with the very difficult issue of financing our public schools. The Robin Hood system of school finance is a thing of the past. Yet, no political party has yet come up with something to replace Robin Hood. I believe in collective thought process and I ask that if you have any suggestions, comments, ideas, and recommendations regarding our next upcoming special session on public education school finance — our office welcomes your point of view concerning this and all matters.

As most of you know, Robin Hood is the name given to the way we used to finance our public schools because, in essence, it took money from property-rich school districts and distributed that money to property-poor

school districts. In this manner, we have assured our students that every effort is being made so that they can have the finest campuses, the best books, and the most up-to-date libraries and computer centers.

However, we're embarking on a new era, one in which technology will see some amazing advances. To prepare our students in taking advantage of such technological marvels, we must continue to fight hard so that they will undergo a progressive, yet fair educational process. It is the majority consensus that it takes money to educate our youngsters and produce qualified educated American citizens. The problem now is how do we obtain that money. As I said before, if any of you — my constituents — have any suggestions on how we can equitably fund our public schools, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We are open-minded, and we are ready to listen to your ideas or suggestions. Let me hear from you. Until then, I remain your servant, Chente for la gente.

**TRUE TEXAS FACTS** by Roger Moore In 1952, Alan Shivers ran for Texas Governor on both tickets.



# Depicting the magic of reading wins poster contest for 6th grader

By Phillip Cortez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Enrique Solorzano, a sixth grader at San Elizario Middle School, says that when he reads he can visualize all the action inside his head.

It's almost like a movie; the mind has a way of assigning each character its own look and voice. Scenery, images, and setting throughout the "movie" belong solely to the reader. It's one of the many reasons why Reading is Fundamental (RIF) in San Elizario.

It's what Solorzano tried to depict in his RIF poster entry, one of the reasons why he was named the winner of the Middle School's RIF poster contest. Solorzano drew a kid so mesmerized by the book in his lap, the book's front and back cover to-

tally shield his face from sight. The boy's face is not important, however. It's what's going on in the boy's imagination that told judges that the book is taking the child off to the future, where talking robots are common.

"It's not me in the picture," Solorzano said. "It's just a child who enjoys reading."

This doesn't mean that he doesn't get a lot out of reading, though. Solorzano loves drawing; his favorite books to check out of the Middle School library are about art.

"These books give me ideas on how to draw better," he said.

Olga Sanchez, SEMS librarian, said there were about 75 entries for the poster contest, each needing to

adhere to some basic guidelines in order to be considered.

"They all had to follow this year's theme, 'Read to Imagine,'" she said. "Posters needed to be submitted in 18x24 size and no work could be from copyrighted material. It all had to be original."

As a result of his efforts, Solorzano was awarded tickets to Tinseltown Theaters, where he watched the third installment of the Matrix trilogy. He also received a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble bookstores.

Honorable mentions in the competition were eighth graders Paola Barraza, Jasmine Monje, and Yadira Lopez.



Enrique Solorzano

Solorzano's winning poster has been sent to Washington, DC where it will compete with other winners from across the United States. According to Sanchez, should Solorzano win, he'll receive an all expenses paid trip to the nation's capital for himself and four members of his family.

All students in the San Elizario Independent School District received a free book of their choice during RIF distribution in December. The next RIF distribution, scheduled for the first week of March 1-5, will commemorate the 100th birthday of Dr. Suess as well as the fifth year the RIF program has been implemented district-wide in all grades in San Elizario. The March RIF distribution will also be celebrated in conjunction with the annual Dia de los Niños/Dia de los Libros event, held at Washington Park later in the month.

# Tornillo Junior High 'goes to college'

As part of the drive to raise student awareness about the possibilities of attending college, 7th and 8th grade students from Tornillo Junior High School attended an assembly on December 16, 2003. The assembly was presented by the Theater Arts Department from UTEP and the Go Texas Educational Project.

The project was the brainchild of the principal, James H. Blake, and UTEP theater arts coordinator Ms. Yevonne Carranza. Using short skits, songs and poetry, the students were encouraged to overcome obstacles that might keep them from attending college.

Another facet of the program will have Tornillo Junior High School identified as a satellite for the Go Texas educational program. This will enable TJHS to reach out not just to Tornillo, but surrounding districts as well, and provide information dealing with all phases of college admission to students and adults.

Dr. Cathy Hicks, GO theater project director, will be coordinating the overall program.

## Socorro

From Page 1

ordinarily be expected to be items for which details would be provided for the public.

Among those consent agenda items were the purchase of a video surveillance system costing in excess of \$5,000; a three percent cost of living increase for 10 city employees; approval of a contract between the City of Socorro and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for Homebuyer Assistance Contract No 542052; approval for the grant committee to submit applications for three separate grants for which details were unexplained to the public; and approval of two requests to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Carole Keeton Strayhorn to provide Socorro with an implementation review and a financial management review for which details and ramifications went unexplained.

One consent agenda item was actually designated for "approval, consideration and adoption," which indicates discussion.

In addition to the expected filing against three of the council members alleging violation of the Open Meetings Act, other Socorro residents have decided to take action based on the conduct of Socorro city business.

A group, organized under the name of Citizens for a Better Government for Socorro, presented Rodela with written notification on Jan. 5 of intent to circulate a recall petition against Gandara, Ramirez, Brewster and Rodriguez. Designating Veneranda Soltero as acting representative, the letter states that the Charter provides that a public hearing be held in which evidence of charges of misfeasance will be presented.

Included in the misfeasance charges are excessive absenteeism, voting despite conflict-of-interest, and inadequate representation.

# Building for the Future

# VOTE YES

# January 24, 2004

## Socorro ISD \$188.7 Million Bond Election

### Building to keep pace with Socorro's growth

### Building for our children's future

### Building with pride...for success

The Socorro Independent School District Bond Election is about strengthening our community, improving educational opportunities for our students, and enhancing the learning environment for our teachers and our children. It is all about Building for the Future. We encourage you to vote YES for the Socorro ISD Bond Election!

**For More Information**  
Visit the district website, [www.sisd.net](http://www.sisd.net) or call us at **937-BOND (2663)**.  
To contact the Pro Socorro Schools Committee, call **433-3827**.

SISD Bond Election Endorsed by the El Paso Times

Political advertising paid for by Pro Socorro Schools Committee, P.O. Box 26029, El Paso, TX, 79926, Jesse Alvarez, Treasurer.



## The 2004 Bond Election Proposal

Every school will receive something from the bond issue. **EVERY child will benefit.**

New Construction	\$132,500,000
2 Combos (a total of four schools)	Eastside
PreK-8 School	Eastside
PreK-8 School	Horizon
9th Grade Expandable	Lower Valley
1 High School	Eastlake Area
Freshman Center	Socorro
Education Center	
Alternative School/School of Choice	

Land Banking	\$4,400,000
60 acres	Eastside
120 acres	Eastlake Area
46 acres	Lower Valley

Additions and Renovations	\$19,500,000
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Major Improvements & Repairs	\$14,380,000
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Technology, Furniture, Equipment & Contingency	\$17,900,000
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Total	\$188,680,000
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### Accountability

A Citizens' Oversight Committee is being established by the Socorro ISD Board of Trustees to make sure that bond monies are spent wisely.

### The Cost

If the Bond Election is approved on Jan. 24, the tax increase on a \$75,000 home will begin at \$5.75 per month in 2005, and increase gradually. At its peak, the tax increase will be \$11.17 per month in 2009.

### No Tax Increase for Senior Citizens

Citizens who are 65 or older and have filed for the Elderly Homestead Exemption will not see an increase in school property taxes as a result of a bond issue. School taxes for senior citizens will not exceed the tax ceiling that was identified when they turned 65. *The only exception would be if the resident made improvements to the property.*

### Early Voting

January 7-20, 2004  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(No voting Jan. 19 – Martin Luther King Holiday)

- Horizon Heights Elementary School
- Montwood High School
- Socorro High School
- El Dorado High School

### Election Day

Saturday, January 24, 2004, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Precinct	Location
109	Jane A. Hambrie School, 3535 Nolan Richardson Drive
110	Word of Life Church, 11675 Pratt Drive
111 / 146 / 165	Lujan-Chavez School, 2200 Sun Country Drive
112 / 113	Benito Martinez School, 2640 Robert Wynn Street
114	Helen Ball School, 1950 Firehouse Drive
115	Irving Schwartz Public Library, 1865 Dean Martin Drive
116	Montwood High School, 12000 Montwood Drive
117	Vista Del Sol School, 11851 Vista Del Sol Drive
118	Myrtle Cooper School, 1515 Rebecca Ann Drive
119	Sierra Vista School, 1501 Bob Hope Drive
120	Americas High School, 12101 Pelicano Drive
144 / 151	Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Avenue
147 / 166	Horizon Heights School, 13601 Ryderwood Avenue
148	Sparks Community Center, 12899 Sparks Drive
149	H.D. Hilley School, 693 N. Rio Vista Road
150 / 152	Robert R. Rojas School, 500 Bauman Road
153	Escontrias School, 205 Buford Road
154	Campestre School, 11399 Socorro Road



# Texas education chief visits SISD

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Students of Socorro ISD’s Vista del Sol Elementary School earned a visit from the Chief Deputy Commissioner of Education on Jan. 8.

Robert Scott became the interim chief of the Texas Education Agency in June. He visited the Eastside cam-

pus to “see what education is like outside of Austin” and to congratulate the school on achieving high passing rates for the recent round of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS exam.

“At Vista del Sol, they have an outstanding record,” Scott said. “And you

can see it in the energy and enthusiasm of the principal and the teachers and the leadership, and that’s the kind of thing we’re trying to replicate. The number one issue for us is student performance, and we look to our assessment and accountability systems as the indicators of performance.”

Socorro Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron and SISD board vice-president Martha Contreras and member Ray Rodriguez accompanied Scott.

Vista del Sol Principal Dr. Magdalena Aguilar welcomed the visitors, showed them around the school and explained some of its programs.

During his visit, Scott talked with students and teachers about their work, and appeared on the school’s closed-circuit television newscast. He said visiting schools is the best

part of his job.

“We don’t educate kids in Austin at TEA. Education takes place on campuses like this, so it’s great to get out and see positive programs and real positive change taking place in the lives of kids.”

Scott said he was impressed by the students’ television news program and by the science experiments of kindergarten students.

“I’ve seen some great ideas here. I’ve seen some ideas that I’m going to take back to my kids’ school in Austin,” he said.

## Briefs

From Page 1

coordinator, at 937-7600.

- An illegal dumping sting operation in West El Paso County’s Upper Valley netted four arrests on Monday, Jan. 5, as uniformed and plain-clothes officers watched from unmarked vehicles at the Northwest Transfer Station, off of North Desert Blvd. This is the third operation of its kind in the last three months, an El Paso County Sheriff’s Dept. spokesman said, because they were receiving reports of illegal dumping around the clock, with most infractions occurring late nights and weekends. Though the Station carries clear signage stating that it is illegal to leave trash in front of the locked gate or in the nearby desert, officers said they witnessed people dropping off materials in front of the facility or throwing bags of trash into a nearby arroyo. A total of ten illegal dumping arrests have been made in the last three months.
- The Lorenzo G. Loya Primary School will host Career Awareness Day on Friday, Jan. 30, 8

a.m. to noon, and is extending an invitation to any San Elizario graduate or resident to be a career awareness presenter. For more information contact Charlie Guerra or Mary Sanchez at 872-3940.

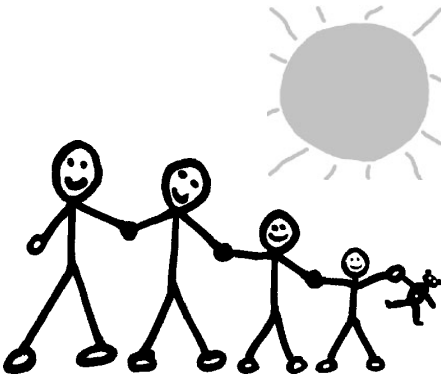
- The El Paso Housing Finance Corporation (the HFC) announced today that loan commitments in the current 2003 Home Buyer Assistance Program have topped the \$15,000,000 mark. This compares to \$3,900,000 for all of 2002, with four months left in the current bond year. Over 225 El Paso families have taken advantage of the program in 2003 to become first time homeowners. The El Paso Housing Finance Corporation (HFC) is a non-profit organization chartered under State law that is focused on making home ownership possible for El Paso citizens. HFC issues tax-free bonds and makes the money available to local families through cooperating lenders, along with assistance toward down payment and closing costs for first-time home purchase.
- The International Coin Club of El Paso will host its 41st Annual Coin Show on Feb. 20, 1-6 p.m.; Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Feb. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Vista Del Sol Conference Cen-

ter, 11189 Rojas Drive in East El Paso. Admission is free. Over 50 coin dealers will be on hand, to buy and sell coins, banknotes, token and medals, from Maine, Michigan, Florida, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas. The Club meets regularly on the first and third Thursdays of every month at Mike and Anna’s Mexican Restaurant, 1850 Trawood, at 7:30 p.m. Information: 533-6001.

- Persons interested in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist should make application to the Texas Cooperative Extension by the deadline of Jan. 22 to attend a 13-week course. In-depth training in wildlife and natural resource management is provided in exchange for graduates of the course providing volunteer work in community outreach, research and service projects. Experts from various aspects of the naturalist field will teach classes in geology, botany, archeology, desert ecology and more. Classes begin Feb. 4 and are held on Wednesday evenings, 6-9 p.m. at the State Building, 401 E. Franklin in downtown El Paso. Five Saturday morning field trips are included. Application forms and information are available at 859-7725.



NOTEWORTHY WORK — Vista del Sol principal Dr. Magdalena Aguilar watched as fifth-grade student Javier Rodriguez shows TEA’s Chief Deputy Commissioner Robert Scott his science work.



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# UTEP BASKETBALL

## Thursday, Jan. 15th

NEVADA

VS @ 7:05 PM

MINERS

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# THINK ORANGE WEAR ORANGE

## Saturday, Jan. 17th

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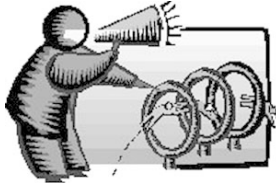


VS @ 7:05 PM

MINERS

# BASKETBALL IS BACK!!

# Fine Art Classes




Tired of jumping through hoops? Horizon Design Studio fine art classes start in January!

Have you ever looked at a work of art or at just an image you liked and said to yourself, “I wish I could do something like that,” or worse still, “I know I could do that if I just had the time. Maybe next year.” Don’t wait any longer! Do it now. If you keep putting it off, chances are you will never “have the time.”

Horizon Design Studio holds affordable, once-a-week, three-hour, Studio Art Classes. They meet at 414 Hadley Place in Horizon City. Every student receives lots of personal attention as class size is limited to six students. Classes cover all media and design.

Reach for your star! New classes start Jan. 20. Call 852-4817 now to reserve your place. Don’t put it off another day!



# Price seems to have a knack for hiring good help

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

I know we're getting close to the end of football for this season but at least in El Paso, it seems very much like it's just beginning.

The bold hiring of Mike Price as UTEP's new coach has the entire city still talking college football. And Price is doing something Gary Nord never did, or never could do. He is putting together an impressive coaching staff.

Going into his third season at UTEP, Nord made the unfortunate comment that he was having to coach both his players and his young inexperienced coaches at the same time.

And that can't be good.

Nord struggled with all his quarterbacks, his special teams weren't really that special and his defense was among the worst in the nation. Bottom line is a head coach can't do it all himself — he needs help, positive help. And Nord just didn't have it.

Mike Price's staff of coaches are both experienced and have been successful.

Every assistant coach has played an important role in his team's achievements. Some have

coached in big bowl games, others have coached in the NFL. All have taken part in big-time football atmospheres.

Jeff Banks is the new assistant in charge of running backs and punters. Banks, who is really excited about UTEP's 1000-yard rusher Howard Jackson, coached at Idaho State and three bowl-bound seasons at Washington State including the 1997 Rose Bowl.

Jim Clark is in charge of the cornerbacks. Clark spent the last three seasons at powerful Washington State.

Aaron Price, one of two sons coaching with Dad, will be in charge of the quarterbacks. Aaron Price helped turn Jason Gesser into one of the best QBs in the nation while at Washington State.

Jeff Woodruff is in charge of the linebackers and special teams. Woodruff has coached in 12 bowl games (five Rose Bowls, two Freedom Bowls, one Aloha Bowl, one Holiday Bowl, one Independence Bowl, one Orange Bowl and a Sun Bowl). He also worked with the running backs at Arizona during their 12-1 season in 1998.

Eric Price is the new offensive coordinator. He worked as an offensive assistant with the

New York Jets in 2001 and 2002. He was instrumental in the development of Jets' quarterback Chad Pennington. He assisted with Miami's Dennis Erickson at Miami during the 1992-93 seasons, helping coach the wide receivers. While there, he helped Miami rank first nationally in passing offense in 1992.

Lawrence Livingston Jr. is in charge of the offensive line and is the assistant head coach. Livingston has been coaching in the college ranks for 20 years. He's coached at football powers Arizona, Texas A&M and Washington State. He also assisted on the Army team that played Alabama in the 1988 Sun Bowl.

The jury is still out whether the Miners will compete for a WAC title or even be competitive with the Cal-Poly's of the world, but one thing is certain, Price has put football back in the minds of El Pasoans.

And Price has something this coming year that Nord never had — some much-needed help.

## Close shaves

Wow, how about all that NFL playoff football last weekend?

Was that some of the best football you've seen in a while or what? All four games went

down to the wire.

Usually, there's at least one blow-out among the four, but every game was in doubt until the closing seconds.

And there was a little something for everybody. There was smashmouth football between the Titans and the Patriots, and a defensive overtime struggle between the Eagles and Packers. There was more overtime drama between the Rams and the Panthers and there was a wide-open scoring-fest between the Chiefs and the Colts.

If you need to be updated, New England outlasted Tennessee 17-14, Carolina stunned St. Louis 29-23 in O.T., Indianapolis outscored Kansas City 38-31 and Philadelphia came from behind to down Green Bay.

I don't usually sit and watch the entire game because, frankly, my wife won't let me. But last weekend even she found it hard to stay away.

I don't know if this weekend's games will be as good as last, but even if they're half as good, we should be in for a treat.

Oh, and write this down — the Indianapolis Colts and the Carolina Panthers will met in the Super Bowl.

## Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

# A summary of 2004 Social Security changes

As the new year begins, it is probably a good time to review some of the annual Social Security and Medicare changes that become effective in January 2004.

Most of the changes affect people already getting Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. But a few affect people who work and pay Social Security taxes.

Beginning this month, Social Security and SSI benefits went up 2.1 percent. That means the average Social Security retirement benefit rose from \$903 in 2003 to \$922 in 2004. Of course, the increase applies to all Social Security benefits, not just retirement payments. For example, the average disability check climbs from \$844 in 2003 to \$862 in 2004. And the average benefit payable to a

widow(er) goes up \$18, from a 2003 rate of \$870 to \$888 in 2004.

The basic SSI payment rate for an individual rises from \$552 to \$564. The rate for a couple goes from \$829 to \$846. But please note that these figures represent just the federal portion of the SSI payment. Many states supplement that federal rate with their own payment, which also generally goes up annually with cost-of-living raises.

People getting Social Security benefits who are under full retirement age, not disabled, and still working also have updates to take into consideration. The earnings threshold in 2004 is \$11,640. For every \$2 earned over that limit, \$1 must be withheld from any Social Security benefits due. (The 2003 threshold was \$11,520.)

If you are reaching full retirement age in 2004, you have a higher income threshold. It is \$31,080, compared to \$30,720 last year. For every \$3 you earn over \$31,080, we must take \$1 from any benefits you are due, for those months leading up to your full retirement age. And when you reach that age, this earnings limit expires.

And an important message for Medicare beneficiaries is that the Part B premium goes up to \$66.60 this year. It was \$57.80 in 2003.

As I mentioned earlier, some of the annual updates affect people still working and paying Social Security taxes. The major change affects higher-income workers, those making more than \$87,000. In 2003, once they made that much money, they no longer owed Social Security payroll taxes. In 2004, the taxable earnings base rises to \$87,900. The tax rate itself does not change. It remains at 6.2 percent for wage earners and 12.4 percent for self-employed people. The Medicare tax rate also remains the same as last year. It is 1.45 percent for wage earners and 2.9 percent for the self-employed. But

there is no earnings base for Medicare taxes. In other words, all of your wages or self-employment income is subject to the Medicare tax.

One other change affects those still working and earning Social Security credits. The amount of income required to earn one credit increased from \$890 in 2003 to \$900 in 2004. But the maximum Social Security credits that can be earned in any one year remains at four. In other words, once you make \$3,600 this year, you will have earned the maximum four credits for Social Security purposes. Most people need 40 credits to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. (Fewer credits are sometimes needed for other Social Security benefits.)

For more information visit your local social security office, see [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213. If you have any questions that you would like to have answered, please mail them to the Social Security Office, 1111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

## Vinton From Page 1

important project to a successful outcome," he added.

Annette Brigham, principal of Childress Elementary School, which is in the Canutillo Independent School District, said, "It's about time. We have been working with the Village of Vinton to secure these school zone signs for the past five years."

Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees presented Mayor Castro and the Vinton Council with a special recognition plaque in December for helping Bill Childress Elementary School secure the new school zone flashers.

"Hopefully, this will help drivers realize that there is a school located here and that they need to slow down during school hours," commented Ernie Ontiveros, Canutillo ISD Transportation Supervisor.

## King Super Crossword

GENE POOL			62 Annette of			bandleader			32 African antelope			86 Ire		
ACROSS			"48HRS."			117 Sky light?			33 "Why don't we?"			89 Court cry		
1 "Lili" actress			64 Privy to			118 Part of NB			34 Berg or Drabowsky			90 Spilled the beans		
6 Decorous			65 Refuse			119 Stalin's predeces-			36 "New Jack City" ac-			91 Negligent		
11 Jack of "Rio Lobo"			66 Out of range			sor			tor			92 Tenor Peerce		
15 With 10 Down,			67 Gene Sarazen in-			120 Stereo components			37 Saharan			95 Weak		
"Cheers" star			vention			121 Choose, with "for"			38 Actor Calhoun			96 Circuitous course		
18 Entice			71 Architect Saarinen			122 Bird food			39 Gene Chandler hit			97 Lowdown crooner?		
19 It's tossed with			72 "Die Fledermaus"			123 "Maria_" ('41 song)			41 Barber Sweeney			98 Behave like a brat		
sauce			maid			124 Clear the slate			43 Leander's love			99 Endowment		
20 Waiter's offering			73 "Oh, woe!"						44 Iniquities			100 Pretended		
21 Medical grp.			74 Irrational			DOWN			45 Crete's capital			101 Berle bit		
22 Gene Barry role			76 Stocking stuffer?			1 "All Over" ('64 hit)			47 Dawson of football			102 Knocked out a		
24 Gene Autry's horse			77 Somewhat			2 Choir member			48 Gene Hackman film			novel		
26 Maestro de Waart			80 Scenter of your			3 Cadge			49 Museum piece			105 Artist Magritte		
27 Evened the score			face?			4 Wind instrument?			54 Computer acronym			106 Sociable starling		
28 Prophets			81 _ -de-camp			5 Varnish ingredient			56 Play for time			107 The _ Brothers		
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song)			85 Top-notch			7 Pine product			59 Departs			"down"		
31 Torrid or Frigid			86 Fido's friend			8 Burro			60 Goal			109 USNA grad		
32 Bluesman James			87 Fido's physician			9 Robert of "Quincy,			61 Amphitheater fea-			111 Recipe abbr.		
35 Le Carre title start			88 Silver-tongued			M.E."			ture			113 Conger or moray		
37 Zeal			91 Not long ago			10 See 15 Across			63 Nev. neighbor			114 Compass pt.		
40 Tea of "Deep Im-			92 Kid			11 Roast host			64 Unemployed			115 Palindromic diarist		
pact"			93 Litter's littlest			12 Annealing oven			65 "Agnus _"			116 "Jurassic Park" stuff		
41 Diplomacy			94 Mead's "Coming - in			13 '56 Ingrid Bergman			66 Cherish					
42 Libertine			Samoa"			film			68 Uh-uh					
43 "Macbeth" role			96 Trier "Thanks!"			14 Silent			69 Florida feature					
46 Kind of sale			97 " _ Cafe" ('88 film)			15 Use one's noodle			70 Blackboard support					
50 Vex			100 Popped one's pecs			16 Overact			72 "Stroker_" ('83 film)					
51 Linda of "Dynasty"			101 Actress Verdon			17 Patron			75 Quite					
52 Revise a manu-			103 Farm measure			18 Vigoda or Fortas			77 "Shaft" star					
script			104 Swap			23 Placekicker's prop			78 Without _ (daringly)					
53 Start to snooze			106 Shopping center			25 It's spotted out			79 Decimal base					
55 Colors			107 Zoo attraction			West			80 Big-name					
57 Gouda garbage			110 Gene Roddenberry			29 Lexicographer Par-			82 Secretary, e.g.					
58 Schedule			creation			tridge			83 Diminutive suffix					
61 Fluffy hairdo			112 Gene Krupa's			31 Actress Wanamaker			85 Blue hue					

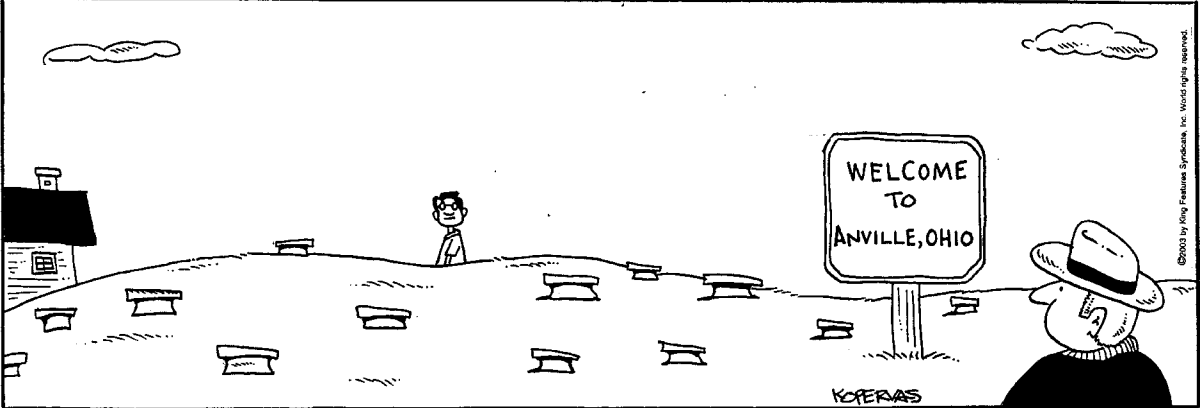
Answer Page 7



Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



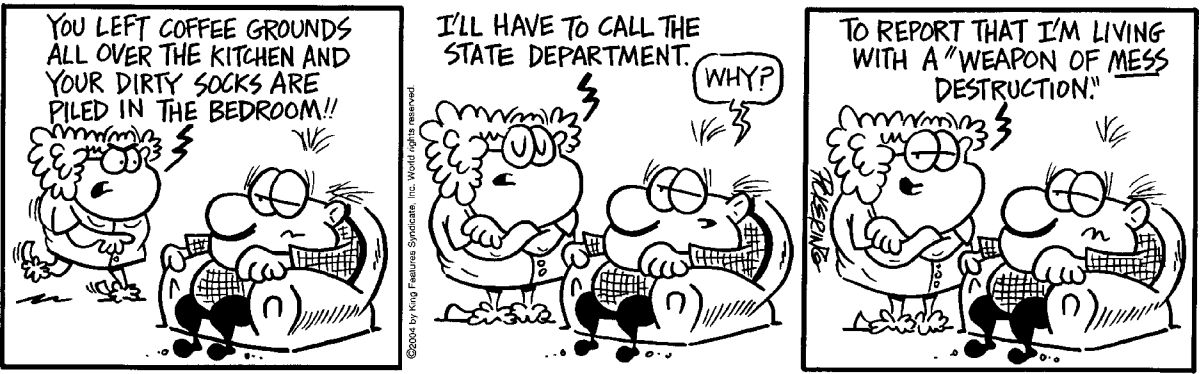
AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



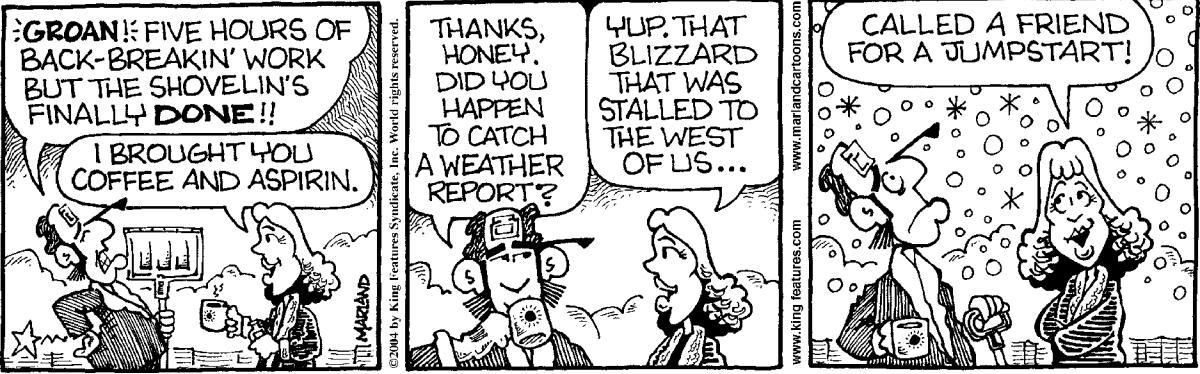
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



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**Canutillo ISD recognizes school board members**

**By Alfredo Vasquez**  
*Special to the Courier*

CANUTILLO — Gov. Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month and Canutillo Independent School District is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge their commitment to our communities and schools.

"Texans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 7,000 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their tireless efforts. These men and women are the local school board members of Texas," said Charles Hart, CISD superintendent.

"Our school board members unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education," Hart said. "They represent a continuing commitment to local control and decision-making in education.

Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part," Hart said.

"We proudly salute these education advocates as they provide leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding, and school facilities. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of the community's children and families," said the superintendent. "These individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their dedication to the continuing success of our students and schools," he added.

The men and women serving as Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees are: Yvonne Sapien-Sanchez, president; Sergio Coronado, vice president; Margarito "Mago" Arellano, secretary; Gonzalo "Chalo" Garcia, member; Charley Hecker, member; Rafael Reyes, member; and Joe Villarreal, member.

Here's the call on cell phones

**By Don Flood**

Put down that cell phone and listen up!

You probably have heard about Joe Horn, the New Orleans Saints receiver who was fined \$30,000 for making a cell-phone call after scoring a touchdown.

(If he gets hit with extra minute or roaming charges, that call will really start to add up!)

Since then I have been deluged with hundreds of e-mail requests for me to explain the rules of cell-phone etiquette.

OK, so maybe they were really offers for various prescription drugs.

Still, I'm amazed the NFL got so bent out of shape about this.

After all, this is America. People have the right to gab on cell phones 24 hours a day.

And in many cases, such as airports, federal law now requires people to carry on inane cell-phone conversations:

"I'm walking through the airport... yeah, yeah... uh-huh... yeah, I can hear you... yeah... yeah... I'm walking through the terminal right now and talking on the phone."

(Legal note: Obeying the law does not call for the traveler to be talking to an actual person. You can fulfill the legal requirements by talking to yourself. However, you must be using a cell phone.)

But what about situations where the law doesn't apply?

Here are some useful guidelines for cell-phone use during social situations:

Weddings: Most etiquette experts agree it's bad form to place a phone call while your bride is making her way up the aisle.

But, as with everything else, it depends on the circumstances.

If you are unlucky enough to be getting married on a big game day, for example, it might be better to check on the score so that you are able to relax and give your wedding vows the attention they deserve.

Also, if the bride herself is on the phone while marching up the aisle, it is understood that those waiting at the altar are free to place calls and/or play electronic games.

(Your guests will already be playing electronic games.)

Funerals: Most experts agree the bereaved should refrain from making calls during the eulogy, though some note that using a cell phone for a call-in eulogy is becoming more acceptable.

Also, while more people are requesting to be buried with their cell phones, funeral directors generally recommend the deceased's phone be turned off during both the service and burial.

Births: By all means, if your wife is giving birth, call everybody with the good news. And don't forget to keep everybody up to date using the handy picture-phone feature.

Graduations: Cell phones have made it possible to call friends who may be far away during your graduation — perhaps way at the end of the next row. Since it could be an extended period of time — 20 minutes or more — before you see them again, calls are permitted to enable friends to indulge in useless conversation.

Taking calls at work: This is often frowned upon because... oops, sorry, I've gotta take this one.

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Restoration of historic mission in Socorro inspires theatrical production



SOCORRO — Socorro High School theater students are preparing a series of mini-plays titled *The Mission*, all inspired by stories about the restoration of the Valley’s Socorro Mission.

The play has been developed by 200 students directed by New York guest artist Michael Orth.

Stories told in *The Mission* include scenes from the mission’s history and memories of the area’s past culled from interviews with great-grandparents. The program also features the ideas of today’s teens finding substance and meaning in the effort to preserve the cornerstone of their community.

The Jan. 16 performance, 7 p.m. at the Socorro High School Theatre, 10150 Alameda, is scheduled for two hours, while the condensed Jan. 17 performance, 7 p.m. the following evening, will feature highlights of the program.

Founded in 1683, the Socorro Mission is one of the oldest continuously operating Catholic missions in the United States, and a two-year restoration project, assisted by Socorro students, is almost complete.

Admission to *The Mission* is free, but donations are welcome.

For more information, call Socorro High School theater arts teacher Troy Herbert, 937-2244.

**HISTORY COMES ALIVE — Guest artist Michael Orth explains the use of masks to a Socorro High School student during rehearsals for The Mission.**

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Increasing clouds; chance of a shower late. ▲ 60°	Mostly cloudy with a shower possible. ▼ 40°	Mostly cloudy, chance for a shower. ▲ 58° ▼ 36°	Turning out partly sunny. ▲ 56° ▼ 30°	Mostly sunny. ▲ 56° ▼ 32°	Mostly sunny. ▲ 58° ▼ 34°	Partly sunny. ▲ 58° ▼ 33°	Partly sunny and cold. ▲ 50° ▼ 28°

**UV INDEX** Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	2	Minimal
Friday	2	Minimal
Saturday	3	Low
Sunday	4	Low
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	4	Low

**TEXAS WEATHER**

Anthony	57	40
Canutillo	57	40
Clint	56	40
E. Montana	59	40
Fabens	56	40
Horizon	58	41
San Elizario	56	38
Socorro	58	39
Tornillo	56	40
Vinton	57	40

Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.

**TRAVELERS CITIES**

City	Thur. Hi/Low	Fri. Hi/Low	Sat. Hi/Low	Sun. Hi/Low	Mon. Hi/Low
Albuquerque	45/31/pc	52/31/pc	51/27/pc	52/28/pc	51/23/pc
Atlanta	55/35/pc	53/35/pc	51/38/c	53/38/c	52/35/c
Atlantic City	20/2/pc	18/8/s	28/18/s	34/21/pc	39/25/pc
Austin/San Antonio	62/44/c	61/45/c	57/43/c	59/42/c	64/43/pc
Baltimore	23/4/pc	16/6/s	27/16/s	30/18/pc	40/27/pc
Boston	8/-4/c	6/0/s	12/6/s	22/10/pc	32/23/pc
Chicago	22/12/c	26/20/pc	34/22/c	32/18/pc	37/24/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	59/40/c	55/41/c	56/42/c	58/40/c	61/41/pc
Denver	54/26/pc	46/24/pc	48/24/pc	49/22/c	45/17/c
Flagstaff	48/20/pc	42/18/pc	46/20/s	48/21/pc	47/16/pc
Houston	64/46/c	58/48/c	58/48/c	56/38/pc	54/36/pc
Kansas City	46/31/s	49/32/c	48/31/pc	49/32/c	48/28/c
Las Vegas	62/40/pc	58/40/s	60/40/s	62/40/s	62/38/s
Miami	73/58/pc	76/63/pc	75/63/pc	78/63/c	77/61/c
Minneapolis	21/16/c	30/18/c	34/20/pc	24/16/c	34/16/c
New Orleans	66/49/c	62/51/c	64/50/c	64/46/c	61/46/pc
New York City	13/9/c	12/5/s	20/17/s	28/25/pc	32/29/pc
Philadelphia	18/2/pc	14/8/s	25/14/s	30/18/pc	36/27/pc
Phoenix	70/46/pc	68/46/pc	70/48/s	70/46/pc	64/42/pc
Portland	51/40/sh	50/40/c	50/42/c	49/39/r	48/37/c
San Francisco	56/46/s	58/46/pc	58/48/pc	57/47/pc	56/43/c
Seattle	48/40/c	48/42/c	50/42/c	49/39/r	47/38/c
Tucson	68/43/pc	62/40/c	64/40/s	70/40/s	70/40/s
Washington, DC	25/8/pc	18/10/s	28/20/s	32/24/pc	41/31/pc

AGRICULTURE

Some moisture will creep northward from Mexico and a weak area of low pressure will bring a chance for a couple of showers Thursday and Friday. Rainfall should average between 0.10-0.20 of an inch. Dry weather will return for Saturday and last into the first part of next week.

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