



NEWSBRIEFS

OOPS

The concluding paragraphs of an article in last week's *Courier* entitled "Agronomics Center a little closer to construction in Vinton" were inadvertently excluded. The article in its entirety is printed in this issue on page 6. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Save your ATV

If you like your ATV (All Terrain Vehicle), you might want to take extra precaution in securing it. An increase in ATV thefts is being reported countywide. Six ATV's and two Go-Karts have been stolen in less than two months. Areas hit include Clint, Horizon City, San Elizario, Fabens, Westway, and Ascarate Park. "It appears most of the vehicles were pushed from the property and loaded into a pick-up truck. None of the ATV's or Go-Karts were properly secured. We just want to remind people they have to be part of the solution in fighting crime. A chain or storing the vehicle behind a locked gate could have prevented most of these thefts," said Rick Glancey, public information officer for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

Mission update

Although under budget, the Socorro Mission Preservation Project has nearly exhausted the \$1.4 million they have raised to date. Organizer Jean Fulton said the project needs just \$152,000 to finish. "Once we receive the necessary funding, we will hire a full-time crew again. Right now, we are working with two full-time employees and lots of volunteers. Once the seven-person crew is hired, we believe we can finish within six months. So, we're very close... We just need to have one of these grants we've applied for stick!" Fulton said. For more information or to donate to the project call 915-858-4655, e-mail jeanfulton@earthlink.net or fax to 915-859-9452.

In other news

■ Joel Maes, a senior at Fabens High School, has been awarded the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) scholarship which will cover the sum of his certified tuition and fees each semester plus a stipend as he pursues a baccalaureate degree in civil engineering at UTEP. Additionally, the scholarship will be renewed each year until his graduation provided he meets the program requirements. He will also work for TxDOT for two academic years immediately following the date of his



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An inferiority complex would be a mighty fine thing if only the right people had it.
— Quips & Quotes



A REALLY COOL GIFT — El Paso Sheriff's Deputies and teachers supervised students from Escontrias Elementary School as they loaded a truck with 25 fans which will be donated to elderly El Pasoans.

Escontrias makes a really cool donation to the community

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso's spring heat has been hard on senior citizens, too many of whom don't have electric fans to cool their homes. But 25 are suffering less from the heat, thanks to the enterprise of Escontrias Elementary School students like fifth-grader David Lee Urquidi.

"I have a grandpa, and if he didn't have a fan, I would hope someone at our school would help and get him a fan."

Students from the Mission Valley campus raised money to buy 25 fans which they donated to elderly El Pasoans. The fans were given to the El Paso County Sheriff's Department, which provides them to the county's Area Agency on Aging for distribution.

"We should think ourselves about the less fortunate and how we would feel if it happened to us," says fifth-grader Jaasiel Zuniga, "It's like a good deed to do."

"If you look at the last four years with the

heat in El Paso, we've had a lot of elderly individuals without air conditioning, who become very sick," says El Paso County Sheriff's Deputy Ron Schweitz. "Some of them, unfortunately, have died. So we feel it is a good community project. It shows that the students care about the people in their community."

The drive was spearheaded by Escontrias teachers Belinda Calderon and Barbara Balderrama.

"We call this Operation HEAT — as in Helping Elderly Achieve Tranquility," Calderon says. "We asked everyone at Escontrias to donate a dollar, and we raised almost \$300 and bought 25 fans. I think it's very important for the students to know they've got to give back to the community."

Balderrama says the effort showed the students the power of donated dollars. "They only donated a dollar, but when they saw what the whole concept was, they were proud."

Teachers, employee of the year named in San Elizario

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

They are different kinds of people, these three. One is shy, in only her fourth year as a teacher, the daughter of illegal immigrants who moved around a lot before setting in Fabens, Texas.

The other describes himself as an outspoken man, in his 31st year of teaching and he often looks further than the classroom in order to teach his kids.

The last has enjoyed working in food service since 1986, yet came into education after working at a funeral home and a utility company.

Still, Virginia Solis, Jose Olivas and Eva Dearo all enjoy working for the students of San Elizario, which is why the San Elizario ISD chose the three as its "best of the best," Thursday, May 20. Solis was named the district's Elementary Teacher of the Year,

Olivas the Secondary Teacher of the Year, and Dearo the Employee of the Year for 2004.

For Solis, she's come a long way since one defiant day in kindergarten, when she was paddled for not taking a nap when she was supposed to. "I didn't cry, though," Solis remembers. "I didn't want them to see me cry."

This strong attitude has served Solis well, as she has been able to achieve various goals while watching her younger sister battle through cancer. She'll carry this same strength as she continues to excel in her career.

"It's a great honor to represent San Elizario and Sambrano Elementary," Solis said. "I feel that this is a reflection of their success because everything I know about teaching, I learned it here."

Walk into Olivas' office and the first thing that jumps out is the many mementos, thank



Virginia Solis

City of Socorro is sued by own councilwoman over election crisis

Courier Staff Reports

SOCORRO — The legal situation facing the City of Socorro and the suspension of its ability to hold an election took another bazaar turn late last week when Socorro Councilman Gloria Rodriguez filed a lawsuit against the city she represents claiming she has been "individually harmed" because she has been deprived of her right to vote.

Following the May 15 election in which Socorro voters turned down a request by the sitting council — of which Rodriguez is a voting member — to amend the City Charter, any city council election has been effectively suspended. Until the Charter is amended, the voting districts within the city cannot be equalized, and because the population distribution within the existing districts is heavily out of balance, any election conducted by Socorro with the existing boundaries in place would be invalid under federal voting laws.

In the suit filed before Judge Frank Montalvo in the U.S. District Court on May 21, Rodriguez claims she has been harmed along with "other voters," which remain unnamed in the suit, because she has been denied her "one person, one vote" entitlement under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

While it was expected that Socorro would take the matter to District Court to obtain permission to fix its voting district problem, the filing of a lawsuit by a city councilman against the entity she has taken full part in operating struck a discordant note with some.

When contacted about the suit, Mayor Irma Sanchez did not mince words. "I can't believe that Ms. Rodriguez is suing herself over matters which she voted for," the mayor said. "If I had veto powers I'd have done something about this long ago. But I have no vote, let alone veto power, on matters before council unless there is a tie — and there have been no tie votes."

Attempts by the *Courier* to reach other members of the Socorro city council for comment were unsuccessful Tuesday afternoon.

As for relief to the alleged harm done her by the City of Socorro, Rodriguez is seeking the following:

- "Under the oversight of the City Council and with the assistance and involvement of City residents, commence the process to reapportion its City Council districts so as to comply with Constitutional requirements;
- complete its redistricting plan within 45 days;
- submit the redistricting plan to the U.S. Dept. of Justice for approval under federal voting law within three days of its completion;
- ask the DOJ to expedite its approval of the redistricting plan;
- implement the redistricting as soon as practicable following the DOJ's approval and;
- hold a special Council member election in September of 2204 or as soon as possible

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One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A little more weird everyday

Religion on the face of this good earth seems to get more weird all the time. There's not too much left human beings haven't done in the name of worship.

PBS aired an interesting series last Sunday called Colonial House, a documentary about a group of people, mostly from England, who recently moved onto a piece of still-wilderness land in Virginia.

Equipped with only the tools, clothing, foodstuffs and livestock common to the first settlers of our nation, they attempted to re-enact establishing a community based on the same laws of governance an early English colony would have to follow.

These people wasted a lot of productive daylight hours "exploring their feelings" in front of the camera, but one of the things about their governmental structure really jumped out at me — they were commanded under civil law to assemble for Sabbath worship, that being on a Sunday in this particular instance.

When the first couple ditched church attendance to go on a picnic, they were punished by being placed in the "stocks" which in this case equated to little more than a two-hour time out in which they were not allowed to speak or otherwise associate with their fellow colonists. Eventually, the colony's governor suspended the Sabbath assembly command because he said so many colonists were having to be punished that it was interfering with their work schedule.

In reality, when this offense was committed in their historic counterpart, the punishment was far more brutal and swift with little opportunity for appeal.

Fast-forward to modern-day England, where the community is still ditching church attendance in record numbers. In fact, regular participation in organized worship has become so dismal that religious organizers have become downright desperate.

So they've turned to on-line worship.

No, I'm not kidding.

Billed as "a first chance for believers to log on and worship interactively," this 3-D internet church debuted earlier this month, featuring sermons delivered by a cartoon character, who relays his words of wisdom via a speech bubble, just like the Sunday comics page, which is, I suppose, their primary competition.

Reuters news agency quotes Web site deputy editor Stephen Goddard as proclaiming: "No one has ever before created a stand-alone church where you can log on as a worshipper and join in however you like — to kneel, cross yourself, sing hymns or shout 'Hallelujah.'"

Reuters said this online church "is the latest in a series of initiatives by Christians in Britain to bring the church into the modern age."

Oddly enough, it seems to be catching on — with slots for only 25 "full worshippers," they had, at last report, 24 signed on. They can — virtually — move around the church, talk to each other, and, of course, contribute to the collection plate.

The site does allow for 500 of what they call "ghosts" who can visit and drift around the site anonymously.

Sponsored by the Methodist Church, the website was organized by a multi-denominational group which calls itself "Ship of Fools" — a name they say is deliberately self-deprecating to "avoid pomposity."

Who knows what the regular parishioners of this flock of cartoon worshippers expects to get out of the service, but they aren't the only ones taking church attendance to the edge of religious absurdity. Last year, a mobile, inflatable church opened in England, complete with blow-up organ and polyvinyl pulpit.

As religious observance skids from one ditch to the other, I can't help wondering what physical punishment, plastic churches and cartoons to titillate childish minds has to do with worshipping the Creator.

Little more, I suspect, than does crossing national boundaries laden with explosives so you can blow up your fellow man in the name of God.



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Write stuff

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents of the Canutillo school district for going out to vote on May 15. As your newly elected board member I will commit all my time and efforts to the Canutillo school district to ensure the best quality education for our children. Once again, thank you for your vote of confidence.

**Carl Fietze
Canutillo**





WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Increased homeownership improves quality of life

A recent report published by the National Association of Home Builders cites a 40-percent increase in new homeownership in El Paso from 2002-2003, making El Paso the top-rated city in the state of Texas.

Not only is home ownership a source of pride and a goal for many families, the development of quality, affordable homes is key to the evolution of our community. Through homeownership, El Pasoans build community and a sense of place, therefore creating a safe environment for families and children. Perhaps most important in these times of economic uncertainty, homeownership also builds financial security. Home equity earned as a result of buying a home allows homeowners the opportunity to borrow, and investments into a home can lead to profits when reselling.

Along with increased home ownership, new homes bring with them construction, engineering, architecture, and marketing jobs. Furniture and home appliance stores enjoy increased sales, as do real estate and financial institutions. New homes also provide the City of El Paso with an increased tax base, therefore providing increased local revenue for critical services, such as firefighters and police.

Here in Congress, my colleagues and I are fighting to provide quality, affordable housing for everyone. I am a co-sponsor of the following legislation:

- The Firefighter Affordable Housing Act, which will provide volunteer firefighters with compensation that lowers their mortgage payments by 2 percent for their primary residence. This bill will also make professional firefighters eligible to make down payments on their homes as low as one percent of the purchase price and will eliminate the requirement to pay mortgage insurance.
- The Bringing America Home Act, which will create affordable housing units in mixed-income locations for those in need. This bill will also increase the quality of health care, provide emergency support services and create job-training programs for those who utilize this housing.
- The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, which will use the Federal Housing Authority surplus (expected to exceed \$34 billion over the next ten years) to create a trust fund that states and localities could draw from to build affordable housing units in mixed-income locations. These units will be targeted for rent and ownership by low to middle income citizens, with the lowest income individuals receiving rental subsidies.

On both the local and federal level, we are hard at work improving housing in El Paso and through our efforts we will create a community everyone will enjoy calling home.

Espino earns Outstanding Senior German Award

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Isabel Espino, a student at Clint High School, has recently received the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) Outstanding High School Senior German Award.

Annette Loomis, an AATG member, is her German Teacher. As recipi-

ent of the award she was presented with a special certificate and a medal acknowledging her achievement, a congratulatory letter, and her name will be placed on the AATG Outstanding Senior Honor Roll on the AATG website.

Only one student per school is nominated for this award. Isabel was selected by her German teacher for having met the following criteria: she maintained an “A” average in Ger-

man; maintained a “B” average overall; will be a graduating senior this year at a public or private secondary school; has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the study of German by participation in extracurricular activities related to German; at the time of graduation, had completed at least three years of formal German study; and is a non-native speaker of German.

The American Association of Teachers of German is a non-profit, educational association devoted to the teaching of the German language

and cultures of the various German-speaking countries. The AATG supports scholarship through its publications. The AATG holds an annual meeting, administers the National German Honor Society for secondary students, and supports 61 regional

chapters throughout the United States. In addition, the AATG administers travel-study programs, scholarship and stipend awards for professional development of teachers, and promotes materials, publications, and audio-visual programs.

Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Summer food safety: A checklist

The temperature is quickly approaching 100 degrees. Lawn chairs, visors and beach towels are in high demand at the local grocery store And the neighborhood kids are out of school. All these things could mean just one thing: Summer is here!

Many of you have already fired up the grill. And others of you are in the process of digging through the garage, trying to find the picnic basket. I will admit that I spent some time this weekend looking for my favorite barbeque recipe. If there’s one thing I love about summer, it’s the joy of outdoor eating. Barbeque just somehow tastes better in the heat of June.

But as you’re making that grocery list for the picnic or scheduling some activities for ball field, I hope you’ll add food safety to your checklist. Just because the eating has moved outdoors doesn’t mean that we can skip food safety.

Many of us forget that food borne illnesses increase in the summer months. Bacteria are always present in our environment. They’re in our soil, air, water, and the bodies of people and animals. But these micro-organisms grow faster in the warm

summer months. Given the right circumstances, harmful bacteria can quickly multiply to large numbers. When this happens, someone eating the food can get sick. That’s exactly why we need to take extra precautions this time of year.

As Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I work closely with the Food and Drug Administration. Each summer, the FDA provides the nation with food safety tips. We use these tips everyday in our house. They’re as simple as only packing what you intend to eat.

These tips are easy and will become second nature before you know it. I encourage each of you to clip out this column, stick it on the refrigerator and use it as a reference. Summer’s about having fun and enjoying the outdoors. By following these simple tips, we can keep it that way.

- Wash your hands before handling food and after handling anything else.
- Plan ahead for clean up — if there’s no water, take alternatives.
- Marinate in the refrigerator. Don’t reuse marinate sauces that have raw meat juice in them unless they are boiled first.

- Don’t allow raw meat juices to mix with other foods in the ice chest, on the counter or the plate.
- Check grilled meats with a thermometer. Cook hamburger and other ground meats (veal, lamb and pork) to an internal temperature of 160°F and ground poultry to 165°F. Beef, veal and lamb steaks, and roasts may be cooked to 145°F for medium rare. Whole poultry should be cooked to 180°F as measured in the thigh; breast meat to 170°F. All cuts of pork should reach 160°F.
- Keep cold food cold. Use your head to keep cold food containers closed as much as possible, out of the sun and in the coolest part of the area. Move leftover food into refrigeration as soon as possible after eating. Bacteria multiply rapidly between 40 and 140°F. Never leave food in this “danger zone” more than two hours.

For more food safety information, contact the Food Safety and Inspection Service at (202) 690-9113 or check out their website at www.fsis.usda.gov. Have a safe summer!



Canutillo Elementary School takes first in UIL competition

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — Canutillo Elementary School took first place overall at the UIL competition recently held at W. D. Surratt Elementary School in the Clint Independent School District. Eighty-six CES kindergarten through fifth grade students competed with students from eight elementary schools throughout the region to earn this outstanding achievement.

Along with Canutillo ES, other schools that competed in the meet were W.D. Surratt Elementary, Desert Hills Elementary, C.T. Welch Elementary, O’Donnell Elementary, Risinger Elementary, Fabens Primary, and Frank Macias Elementary.

Students competed in their respective divisions in oral reading, presentation, writing, spelling, math, listening skills, dictionary skills, art, and music contests. CES had six students win first, three students won second, four students placed third, as well as 14 students who placed in 4th, 5th, and 6th in their events.

Both the CES Art Contest team and the Music Memory team won 2nd place overall in their events. Canutillo ES Primary Division (K-2) took third place overall and CES’s Elementary Division (3-5) took first place.

“These competitions improve students skills and promote interest in competitive events, as well as help prepare students for middle and high school,” stated Dianna Whitaker, Canutillo ES teacher and UIL Coordinator.

Desert Hills Elementary honored for healthy habits

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Desert Hills Elementary in Clint ISD has been honored as the Region 19 Best School Wide Implementation of the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children’s Health) Program for the 2003-2004 school year.

They were awarded with a check for \$100 and a plaque at the CATCH banquet. The mission of the CATCH program is to support elementary schools in their effort to develop children’s lifetime health habits for better nutrition, increased physical activity and tobacco avoidance. The ultimate goal of the program is to promote health and reduce chronic diseases associated with dietary excess and imbalances, sedentary lifestyle and tobacco use, through the elementary school curriculum and family involvement.

The Desert Hills Elementary CATCH committee includes: Barbara Tullius, Becky Cook, Lourdes Murillo, Guillermo Cerecerez, Laura Rivera, Linda Sandoval, Julia Truax, Martha Chavez, Christina Becerra, and Mark Ayala, Principal.

These individuals worked to educate the students, parents, and staff on the four CATCH components: physical education, classroom, nutrition, and family.

The students at Desert Hills participate in a “Tasting Tea” hosted by the cafeteria manager where they were offered a taste of food they normally would not get at home. The classroom teachers attend regular training to help them implement the CATCH program activities and prepare healthy snacks in the classroom to help their students with learning nutritional values while building TAKS skills.

The parents participate in exercise with their child every Friday at the school and attend training sessions on the CATCH components. The CATCH grant has allowed Desert Hills to complete funds needed to purchase playground and exercise equipment.

CATCH is managed by El Paso Region 19 Education Service Center and funded by Paso Del Norte Health Foundation. Other Clint ISD campuses also participating in the CATCH program are: Montana Vista Elementary; W.D. Surratt Elementary; Frank Macias Elementary; and C.T. Welch Intermediate.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Every American resident deserves health insurance

Hola, mi gente! It is my belief is that every single resident of this great nation of ours deserves to be fully insured against health catastrophes.

Do you realize that more than 43 million of our neighbors and friends in the U.S. do not have health insurance and what an impact this has on our nation? Lost productivity, lost wages, lost families, and loss of lives is the high price we’re paying. As an elected official, I truly feel sorrow that we don’t seem to be able to come up with protection for everyone.

An article in *USA Today* recently placed the problem in monetary terms. For instance, a victim of severe brain injury can accumulate medical bills of up to \$50,000 or more. Any balance the patient’s family can’t pay is absorbed by the hospital which will then begin operating in the red. This year alone, hospitals stand to be left with at least \$30 million in unpaid bills. Even worse, our nonprofit health clinics cannot carry this financial burden and this affects whether they can locate in our

border communities.

If we were to provide health coverage to all our residents the cost would not be astronomical. For example, if the uninsured had the same health care as those who are insured, the nation’s total health bill would amount to about \$1.2 trillion. This amount would increase by only three percent to six percent, or about \$34 billion to \$69 billion on an annual basis. I believe that we can afford this amount.

However, without some form of universal coverage, our national economy will continue to suffer because of ill health, delayed child development, early deaths, low productivity, and financial stress on families.

This also impacts even those who do have health insurance because it wears down our nation’s medical system’s ability to provide health services. Large U.S. cities who have a predominance of uninsured residents, such as El Paso, Detroit, and Atlanta, stand to lose doctors, on-call coverage by specialists, and even hospitals and health facilities because they can’t pay for the uninsured. In Los Angeles, where more than 10 million

people are uninsured, at least six public hospitals which cater to the poor have had to shut down, as have 11 of 18 public health facilities.

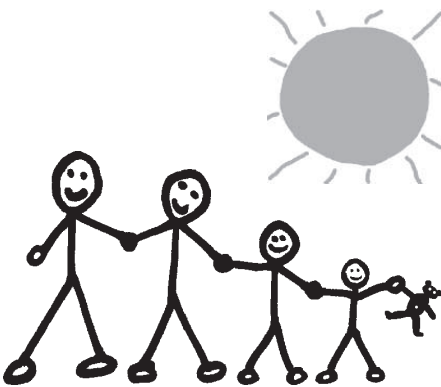
Our nation is basically small-business oriented, and many small businesses cannot afford to provide coverage for their employees.

A very good friend of mine recently suffered a below-the-knee amputation of his right leg. He did have insurance, which covered his operation, but he still received a bill from the hospital for \$30,000 — *after* his insurance paid its share.

Here are a few recommendations as I see them: 1) Provide continuous and universal insurance for every American; 2) Control costs, because insurance bills keep getting higher; 3) Promote high-quality care that is patient-controlled, that is effective, efficient, and safe; 4) Don’t allow the lack of health insurance to harm our health care system.

We must do it now. But remember, universal health insurance won’t happen overnight, and it won’t be easy. I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la gente

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County school districts produce true ‘Hoby Ambassadors’

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — Four students from the Clint, Socorro and Canutillo school districts were honored as finalists in the Hugh O’Brian (HOBY) Far West Texas Leadership Seminar held this past weekend in El Paso.

“Motivating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today” was the theme of the three-day seminar during which the “HOBY Ambassadors” met and talked with leaders in military, law enforcement as well as the civilian business communities.

The students, all sophomores, comprised four of the six female finalists named in judging Saturday night. The top male and female students will get an expense-paid trip to the World Leadership Congress scheduled at Georgetown University in Washington in July.

Two of the students were from the Clint school district. They were Alejandra Aguilar, Clint High School; and Donna Martinez, Mountain View High School. The other female finalists were Jenny Enriquez, Socorro High School and Maria

Hernandez, Canutillo High School.

Other area student ambassadors selected to attend the seminar were Cristian Lopez, Horizon High; Paula Vitela, San Elizario High; Crystal Trejo, Tornillo High; and Samuel Estrada, Anthony High.

The top two students selected to attend the World Leadership Congress are Wesley Walker, Andress High School; and Fatemeh Khosravani, Jesus Chapel High School.

These students were among 48 ambassadors selected by their high schools to attend the El Paso seminar which was held in the Howard Johnson’s Restaurant on the east side and the El Paso Community College’s administration center.

The El Paso seminar, begun in 1991, is one of 74 sites throughout the country where outstanding area youth work to “improve critical thinking skills, enhance leadership skills, and better understand the democratic process.”

Actor Hugh O’Brian founded HOBY in 1958. Its mission is “to seek out and recognize and develop leadership potential commencing with high school sophomores.” O’Brian says more than 335,000 stu-

dents have graduated from the program since its inception.

He challenges the HOBY ambassadors. “So, shine bright my young

friend; you are all my tomorrows and the future is yours to give back!”

Socorro

From Page 1

thereafter to remedy the postponed municipal elections that were required by law to be held on May 15, 2004.”

Additionally, “as a result of the City’s violation of the 14th amendment, Rodriguez was required to hire legal counsel to prosecute this suit,” the document claims. “Accordingly... Rodriguez is entitled to recover her reasonable and necessary costs and attorneys’ fees incurred... “ Those fees as specified in the suit include the cost of hearings and trial, post- and pre-trial legal services and any possible appeals. “In connection

with his (her) request costs, Rodriguez seeks to recover, among other things, the costs associated with the filing (of) this lawsuit, issuing subpoenas, paying for deposition transcript, expert witness fees and reasonable and necessary travel expenses including air fare, lodging and meals.”

The Socorro council was to meet on Tuesday night in special session to canvass the votes of the unsuccessful May 15 Charter amendment election in which fewer than 200 people cast a vote — 83 opposed the amendment, 79 were in favor.

Rudy Ortiz, a longtime civic activist in Socorro, opposed the Charter amendment request because he said it would give the Socorro council a “blank check” to amend the

Charter anytime without voter approval. “The city council is asking for this petition to be passed as it will give them the authority to enact any changes which they deem necessary without the input of us, the registered voters and residents of the city of Socorro,” he wrote in opposing the measure.

Council met in regular session last Thursday, hearing from Socorro businessman Guillermo “Willie” Gandara, who voiced his displeasure about the election situation.

“I challenge all of you (council members) to step down and let Socorro choose” other city officials, Gandara said. Gandara’s son, Gary Gandara, is a sitting member of the council.

SEISD

From Page 1

you notes and photos he has carefully tacked onto the wall, creating a collage of memories from former students.

“I told my students that this was their award,” Olivas said. “I get to keep the trophy, but this is their award,” he laughed.

Born in Fabens, Texas, Olivas was just about ready to leave El Paso after teaching in the El Paso ISD for 15 years when San

“I turned down several jobs in the

San Antonio area in order to come here,” Olivas said. “I wanted to make a difference in this community.”

Olivas wants to see his students succeed academically, but says he also wants them to be conscientious of the world around them, that having moral values is important today, that learning doesn’t end in the classroom.

From deep within the San Elizario High School lunch-

smells so good it saddens you that it’s only 9:30 a.m. One of the cooks is passionately belting out a Vicente Fernandez song as Eva Dearo and company are busy preparing the student special.

“I did not expect to be chosen for this award,” Dearo said. “It feels very good.”

In his remarks during the May 20 ceremony honoring campus teachers and employees of the year, Dr. Michael Quatrini, superintendent, said that the individuals chosen for the award were the best of the best. After talking with each of them, it’s easy to understand why.



Jose Olivas



Eva Dearo

Clint Independent School District Public Notice

The Clint ISD announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Clint ISD provides free access to all who are eligible to participate in the program without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability, religion or political belief. Anyone who believes that they may have been discriminated based on race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability, religion or political belief, should write the Texas Dept. of Human Services, Civil Rights Office, 701 W. 51ST St., Austin, Texas 78751-9030, Mail Code W-206. All other discrimination complaints should be referred to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964.

Free breakfast and lunch are available to eligible participants 18 years of age and younger. Participants with a handicap may be 20 years of age. Adults may purchase a meal at ala carte price.

The following sites will be open starting June 1, 2004 through August 2, 2004*, Monday through Thursday:

- **Surratt Elementary**
12675 Alameda, Clint, TX
- **Frank Macias Elementary**
12595 Darrington, Horizon City, TX
- **Desert Hills Elementary**
300 Eastlake Dr., Horizon City, TX
- **Montana Vista Elementary**
3550 Mark Jason, El Paso, TX
- **Red Sands Elementary**
4250 O’Shea, El Paso, TX
- **Horizon High School**
14651 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, TX
- **Mountain View High School**
14964 Gregg Dr., El Paso, TX

Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m.
Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* All locations will be closed from July 5 to July 12 and all Fridays in June and July.

WTCC: 05/27/04



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SEISD board goes above and beyond on pay issue

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO - San Elizario ISD’s board of trustees pushed the pay envelope in setting salary scales for its teachers, administrators and support staff. Action on the salary issue proposed by the administration came at its May 12 meeting.

In pushing the pay envelope, trustees, more precisely, increased its size for many district personnel in the coming school year. They went higher than the increase recommended by the administration which said it was con-

cerned about remaining competitive with other districts in teachers’ salaries. Research determined that SEISD’s teachers’ salaries were lower than some other area districts.

They were also anxious to make up for small increases in past years. Administration had recommended a three percent increase for support personnel. After returning from executive session, trustees raised it to four percent. Likewise, they boosted wages for central administration personnel from a recommended two percent increase to three percent.

Before the board took the action, trustee Roberto Garcia asked finan-

cial director Larry Worrell if he was “comfortable” with the additional increases the trustees were proposing. He replied that he was.

The board also approved a recommended new pay scale for teachers and campus administrators. The new scale, said Superintendent Dr. Mike Quatrini, is designed “to raise teachers’ salaries quickly.” Starting salary for a new teacher without experience increases approximately 10 percent from \$32,100 to \$35,000.

The new pay scale is pegged to an index that takes into account the type of job, years of experience and work performed. It is tied to the campus

administrators who include principals, librarians, counselors and diagnosticians.

“This is very equitable,” Quatrini said. “We appreciate the board’s action. “We are closing that gap now.”

Students were also recognized for recent achievements:

- Academic UIL regional qualifiers include Alex Velez, Frank Carrasco, Yvonne Cazares, and Jesus Hernandez.
- Qualifying on state level in band were Ray Aguirre, Janie Lopez, Linda Lara and Carlos Gonzales.
- Student actors and actresses advanced to the area level in a one-act, ensemble-style play, “The History of Tom Jones.” They wore black t-shirts that said “She’s My Mother - Hang

Me.” The performers were Pablo Jimenez, Liza Bernal, Richard Cazares,Alex Velez, George Rangel, Jennifer Duran, Raul Muela, Jeannette Morales, Sandra Garcia, Luis Ruiz, Sandra Quinonez, Rachel Vasquez, Enrique Santiesteban, Miriam Esparza and Alex Gallegos.

- Seventeen students were honored for their participation in the recent Special Olympics. They are Fernando Almanzar, Miguel Bautista, Corina Camargo, Steven Chavez,Claudia Esquivel,Francisco Flores, Jr., Morayma Ibarra, Ivan Lamas, Joel Lopez, Julio Luna, Adrian Maldonado, Ivan Marquez, Sergio Martinez, Sylvanna Ortiz, Jose Reyes, Danielle Reza and Marcario Sanchez.

Briefs

From Page 1

graduation. Maes earned the scholarship by maintaining a specified GPA and meeting requirements on his college-entrance exams. Joel is the son of Leticia Maes of Fabens, and Daniel Maes.

■ All children age four years to sixth grade are invited to an exciting time at “Son Games: God’s Team in Action” Vacation Bible School, June 7-11, 6-8:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Horizon City, 17018 Darrington Road. Bible lessons, crafts, music, recreation and snacks, based on an Olympic theme, will be provided. Call 852-3027 for information.

■ The Fabens El Paso County Library in Summer Reading Program will run June 1 through Aug. 2, Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; on Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Story Time will run July 1-July 30 every day from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The Library is located at 1331 N. Fabens St. and the phone is 764-3635.

■ Clint High School will host a brisket dinner at the Clint Community Center, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., on June 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Athletic Department and faculty, funds raised will benefit Coach Durant who is in need of a kidney transplant. His kidneys were damaged during chemotherapy and he and his family are in need of assistance to cover his medical expenses. Tickets are \$6 and include brisket dinner with drink and dessert. Contact Rosvel Martinez, Clint High School, 852-0893 or 276-9968.

■ A play group is now available for children ages birth to five years in Horizon City. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning the group meets to play at St. Brendan’s Episcopal Church, 14999 Darrington Rd. Call 433-7727 or 637-1982 for more information.

■ A flea market to raise funds for the Oz Glaze Senior Center will be held on Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. A wide selection of merchandise, new

and used, will be available, including ceramics, wood crafts and other arts/crafts. Vendors are welcome, tables are available for \$10 donation. To reserve or for more information call 852-1707 or 852-2592.

■ Voters in San Elizario chose Ramon Holguin to fill the vacancy on the school board left by longtime member, Rick Rednour, Saturday, May 15. Holguin brings a decade of school board experience to the school district, having served from 1986 to 1996, said SEISD Public Relations Officer Phillip Cortez. During this consecutive run, Holguin served as board president from 1991 to 1995. “I would not have won had it not been for the people of San Elizario,” Holguin said. “I feel that with my

son out of high school, I can concentrate on seeing that the kids in San Elizario get a good education.” Holguin served in the military for 18 and a half years and retired as a Sergeant First Class with A Company, Engineering Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. It’s his strong military experience that will guide his approach to servicing the San Elizario community. “Everything I do for this community, I make it my mission,” Holguin said. “I’m in there because I know I can do a good job.” Current board members Roberto Garcia and Teresa Alarcón ran unopposed during the May election. Their victories ensure three more years on the board until Alarcón and Garcia are up for re-election.

■ The Clint Independent School

District will begin allowing students who live outside the district to transfer into the district without paying tuition, according to a statement from the district this week. A written transfer request must be filed with the office of the Superintendent prior to the school year for which the transfer is requested. To avoid overcrowding and to maintain balance in enrollments, the administration will assign these students to a campus. To be eligible for a transfer the following criteria must be met: 90 percent attendance record; no record of serious or persistent misconduct; adequate space must be available; the transfer must be in compliance with the one percent rule; and student must be a Texas resident, the statement said. The transfer may be revoked at the end of the academic year if

space is no longer available or due to lack of parental support related to misconduct, poor attendance, or lack of student effort. For more information call 926-4000.

■ The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will present the Community Express Loan Seminar on Wednesday, June 9, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the One Stop Business Resource Center, Cactus Conference Room at 1359 Lomaland. The Community Express Loan is designed to provide financing opportunities for veterans, women, and minorities in low to moderate income urban and rural areas to start and expand a business with a maximum loan amount of \$250,000. The event is free, however, reservations are recommended at 633-7008.

Canutillo ISD Public Notice Summer Meal Program

Canutillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program.

Free breakfast and lunch are available to eligible participants from one year to 18 years of age. Participants with a handicap may be 20 years of age. Adults may purchase a meal.

Breakfast is served from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Six school campuses’ schudules are:

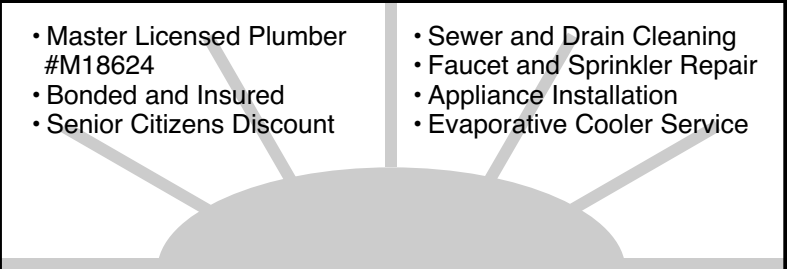
- Canutillo High School, 7311 Bosque Rd., June 7 - July 2;
- Canutillo Middle School, 801 Talbot, June 7 - July 2;
- Canutillo Elementary School, 651Canutillo Ave., June 7 - July 2 (may be extended through July 30);
- Davenport Elementary School, 8401 Remington Rd., June 7 - July 2 (may be extended through July 30);
- Bill Childress Elementary School, 7700 Cap Carter Rd., June 7 - July 2;
- Jose Damian Elementary School, 6300 Strahan Rd., June 7 - July 2.

CISD Food Service Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, age, national origin, religion or political beliefs. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MCE-106, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. **NOTE:** Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred **ONLY** to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Dept. of Human Services.

For more information, call Adele Balesh, at (915) 877-7451.
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Fabens Independent School District Public Notice

This summer the Fabens Independent School District will be part of the Summer Feeding Service Program (SFSP) through the Texas Department of Human Services providing a **free breakfast and lunch** to all children age 18 and younger. Meals will be served at the **Fabens Isaac Camacho Cafeteria**, 600 N. 4TH St. Rear in Fabens, Texas. The program dates will be June 1, 2004 through July 2, 2004.

TIME	
Breakfast	7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ADULT PRICES	
Breakfast	\$1.75
Lunch	\$2.85

This Summer Food Service Program does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, color, race, handicap, national origin, religion or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. **NOTE:** Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred **ONLY** to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Dept. of Human Services.

WTCC: 05/27/04

If you’re going to get in trouble might as well do it right

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I’ve always been of the opinion that if you’re going to do something, for goodness sake, do it right! Do it all the way, or why bother?

It was nice to see that former Minnesota Vikings receiver George “Buster” Rhymes follows that philosophy to a tee.

If you’re going to mess up, do it in a way that leaves absolutely no doubt about your guilt. If you’re going to go down in flames anyway, leave your mark.

Rhymes, now 42, was arrested after driving the wrong way on a highway this week. But, in an attempt to completely solidify his chance for arrest, police said Rhymes was still trying to puff on his crack pipe when they approached his car.

Now, that’s what I call getting the most out of your traffic stop.

It all started when a concerned citizen called Minnesota police and informed them of a car operating in an erratic manner, with a flat tire. They said it had just hit a construction barrel.

The State Patrol stopped and arrested Rhymes only after an officer forced his vehicle off of the road to avoid colliding with oncoming traffic.

Rhymes was jailed on suspicion of possession of cocaine, drunken driving, and fleeing a police officer.

I guess the only thing missing was one of those guys with the “COPS” video camera. Talk about a bad-boy, bad-boy.

The best aspect of this incident had to do with Rhymes’ honesty. When asked by police why he didn’t stop, the former Vikings’ player simply said, “I was out of my mind.”

Always remember that kids, it pays to be honest.

Being a former NFL player and driving the wrong way down a highway are not Rhymes’ only talents, however. He also served four months in jail for carjacking a Lexus in 2002.

Wait, there’s more, Rhymes is also awaiting sentencing in a 2003 robbery where he pleaded guilty to felony robbery for jumping into a woman’s car and fighting her for control.

I’ve got a question though, how do you get only four months for a carjacking?

Anyway, I want to salute Mr. Rhymes for his thoroughness, his honesty, and his persistence.

Let’s hope that the State of Minnesota awards Rhymes with some nice shiny bracelets and anklets and a fashionable orange jumpsuit.

But don’t be cheap, Minnesota, let Rhymes keep this attire for many years... and how about throwing in free living quarters as well — I think a 10x10 cell would suffice.

Role reversal

We hear about college athletes getting in trouble all the time with fighting, gambling, abusing women, abusing drug, and stealing, among other notable extracurricular types of behavior.

And everybody looks to the coach to be the father figure and do his best to help turn these troubled kids around and lead them toward the right path.

But what do you do when it’s the coach that

acts like a kid and gets involved in this kind of illegal behavior?

That is what Montana State is dealing asking right now.

Seems the assistant head football coach, Joe O’Brien, never grew up and was busy with a little extracurricular activity of his own.

O’Brien faces charges of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, selling drugs within 1,000 feet of Montana State University, and 24 counts of money laundering.

And to be really honest, I would still have a problem with the coach if he were selling the drugs *50 miles away* from the Montana State University campus. But that’s just me.

O’Brien, obviously not among the more accomplished thinkers of his time, was also charged with misdemeanor assault in 2000 and was warned by MSU administrators he would be fired if he got in trouble with the law again.

You know, I don’t think O’Brien was paying full attention to those administrators that

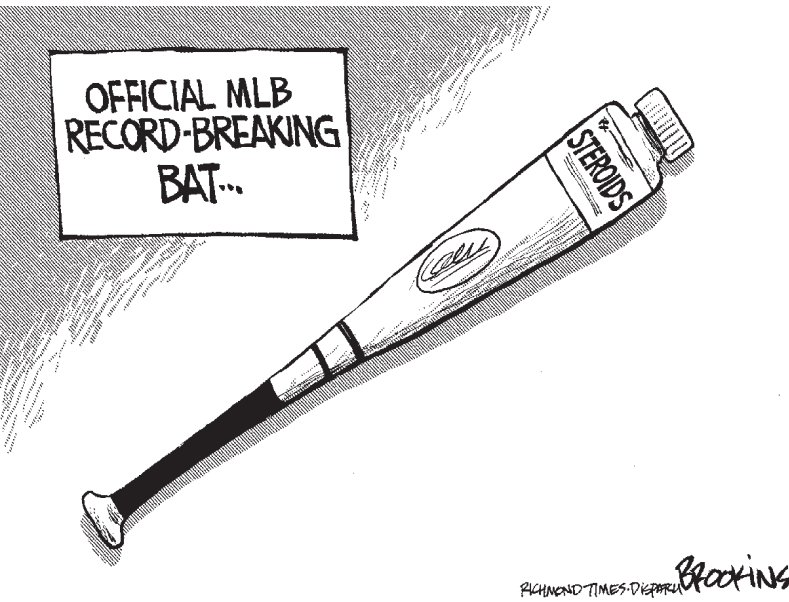
day. And the least of O’Brien’s worries right now is the loss of his job.

The former 1994 Big Sky conference defensive player of the year at Boise State originally said he was set up and pleaded not guilty.

But he has since reached a plea agreement with the court and has changed his plea to guilty, which will get him approximately five years in the big house.

I just hope Montana State has improved its screening process for coaches.

True, O’Brien made things more convenient — it used to be that the players had to go off campus to get their drugs — but it’s a still bad practice.



Agronomics Center a little closer to construction in Vinton

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — The Vinton Village Council cleared an obstacle to the construction of the Agronomics Center on the Rio Grande adjacent to Childress Elementary School in the Canutillo Independent School District.

The council, at its May 4 meeting, approved a change in the zoning ordinance for a special permit to construct the agricultural facility on 75 acres of land. “It can do only positive things for the students and the community,” said Dr. Monica Reyes, director of curriculum and evaluation for the district, who outlined the project to council members.

According to its mission statement, in part, the Agronomics Center will “provide students in El Paso County an opportunity to study agricultural science, agronomics, agribusiness and participate in active research.” The formal name of the center was proposed for approval at the May 12 board of trustees meeting.

She said center would be built with outside financial resources and would not be a burden to taxpayers.

The first phase of the project would be the construction of an arena complete with bleachers, animal pens and restroom facilities. Subsequent phases will include classrooms, offices and horse stables.

Construction on the \$4 million project is expected to start soon.

Water service projects also came under discussion at the meeting. Hector Gonzalez, strategic business manager for El Paso Water Utilities, reported on efforts by the utility to take over and operate the water system in Vinton. He said the utility was assessing what was in the ground now and whether or not it meets state and federal standards.

Gonzalez said El Paso Water Utilities was looking at appraisals of the value of four or five private water systems in Vinton area. Iris Sims, owner of a private system, asked him whether expressing an interest in selling to the utility was a commitment to selling. Gonzalez assured her it was not, and that he was only trying to get feedback from the owners as

to whether they would want to participate. He emphasized that those who sold would be dissolving their privately owned water system and getting out of the business altogether.

Gonzalez said he wanted to negotiate with the private owners for a fair price for their system. “We aren’t forcing anyone to participate,” he assured council members and members of the audience.

The EPWU strategic business manager also said laying a new water line along Kiely Road was under way. It will provide hookups to approximately 33 homes.

New water line construction is planned along Vinton Road. Gonzalez said larger, 16-inch water lines would be laid along Vinton

Road. He said no date had been set for start of construction. Ground-breaking for the new water/wastewater project was held May 3.

Funding for the construction, he pointed out, would come through private grants and a bond issue over a 20-year period. The more money that could be attained through private sources would offset the amount of the bond issue.

In other action, the village council approved a resolution allowing Project Bravo to initiate a bootstrap program to rehabilitate 16 homes over a two-year period in Vinton. There would be no cost to Vinton.

A member of the audience said there was “a huge need” for such a project in Vinton.

King Super Crossword

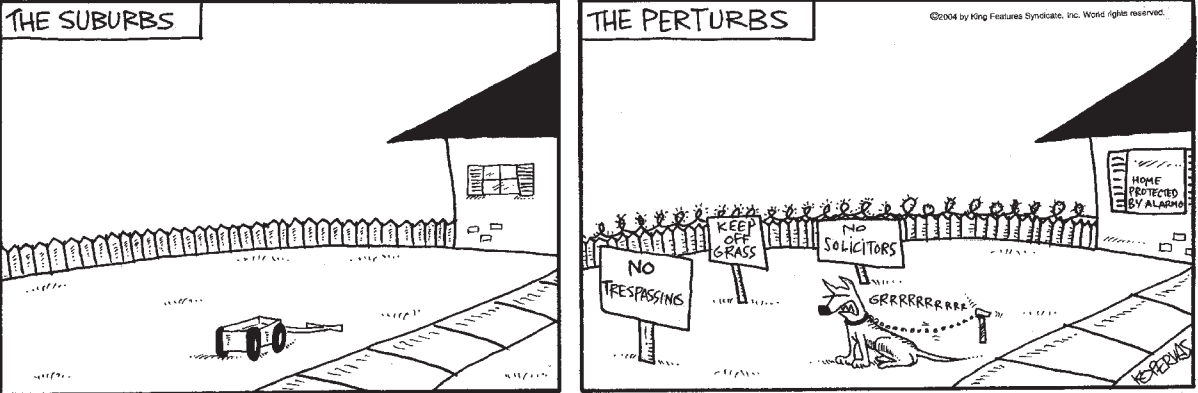
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1 Brent Spiner role	5 Greenhouse items	9 Novelist Jong	14 Future officer	19 Mideastern gulf	20 "Typee" sequel	21 Reveal	22 Put up with	23 ARIZONA	26 "The Boys From Brazil" author	27 Zola or Durkheim	28 Elvis, for instance	29 "Holy cow!"	31 Lennon's lady
32 SASE, e.g.	34 WASHINGTON	40 He engages in	brute farce	45 "Porgi _" (Mozart aria)	46 Tallow source	47 Demolish dessert	48 Composer	Khachaturian	50 " _ Night" ('80 film)	52 "In Search of ..."	host	56 OKLAHOMA	61 Hold forth
62 Tijuana title	63 Lodge brother	64 Podiatric problem	66 Actress Hagen	67 Cabbage cousin	70 Shoe part	74 Strauss' _	Rosenkavalier"	75 Clump	78 VIRGINIA	82 West ender?	83 Pindaric poem	84 Hog heaven?	85 "My word!"
86 Sounds like a	Shorthorn	88 "Mazel _"	89 Sense	90 Speck	92 Carve a canyon	96 The Little Mermaid	98 INDIANA	104 Nobelist Sachs	105 "Aida" river	106 Ahmedabad attire	107 '64 Murray	Schisgal play	108 Draft status
111 Arbitrary order	113 Sluggish	116 IDAHO	120 Philips of "UHF"	121 Chicken _ king	122 Dollop	123 Melodious	McEntire	127 "Archie" character	131 Fit for a king	134 FLORIDA	139 "My Friend Flicka" author	140 Spine-tingling	141 _ Hari
143 Uncovered	144 English county	145 Certain Semite	146 Draft device	DOWN	1 Joan Sutherland's title	2 Hoss' big brother	3 Actress Austin	4 Leg joints	5 Taro concoction	6 Word form for "all"	7 Barber Sweeney	8 Mediocre	9 TV Tarzan
10 Part of USAR	11 Klugman co-star	12 Michael Crichton work	13 Patrons	14 Hubbard or Tjader	15 Vigoda of "Fish"	16 St. Andrews clod	17 Minnesota city	18 Tauber or Thill	24 Time to give up	25 Soprano Gluck	30 Aussie walker	33 Hammer feature	35 Word on a fuse
36 Actress Singer	37 River reptile	38 Vacuum-tube gas	39 " _ Crazy" ('80 film)	40 Networks	41 Uncommon	43 Significant years	44 "Monsieur Verdoux" actress	49 2,056, to Tiberius	51 Jungle bird	53 "All in the Family" spin_off	54 Playful fisherman	55 Long for	57 NASA affirmative
58 "Confound it!"	59 Order of the czar	60 Resident	65 Try again	68 _ majesty	69 Record	71 EPA concern	72 Bandleader Perez	75 Valhalla VIP	76 Venerate	77 Pester	79 Windbreaker	material	80 Effluvia
81 Kind of pitcher	87 _ Lanka	89 "Captain Blood" star	91 Senator Cochran	93 Christianity, today	94 Gloomy	95 Covet	97 Wells creatures	99 Ride	100 Literary pseudonym	102 Onassis' nickname	103 Annoy	109 Souffle ingredient	110 Climax
112 Amos or Spelling	114 Snowballs, sometimes	115 Like some smiles	116 Nobleman	117 Hilo hello	118 Palindromic pirogue	119 Some woodwinds	124 Jane Austen novel	125 Gentle Ben, for one	126 Actress Nielsen	128 Rock's _ Players	129 Pursue	130 Mahler's "Das Lied von der _"	132 Exist
133 Fictional collie	135 Hosp. areas	136 Casino cube	137 Saxophonist	Beneke	138 Fairy queen	139 " _ Crazy" ('80 film)	140 Networks	141 Uncommon	142 Hastened	143 Uncovered	144 English county	145 Certain Semite	146 Draft device

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



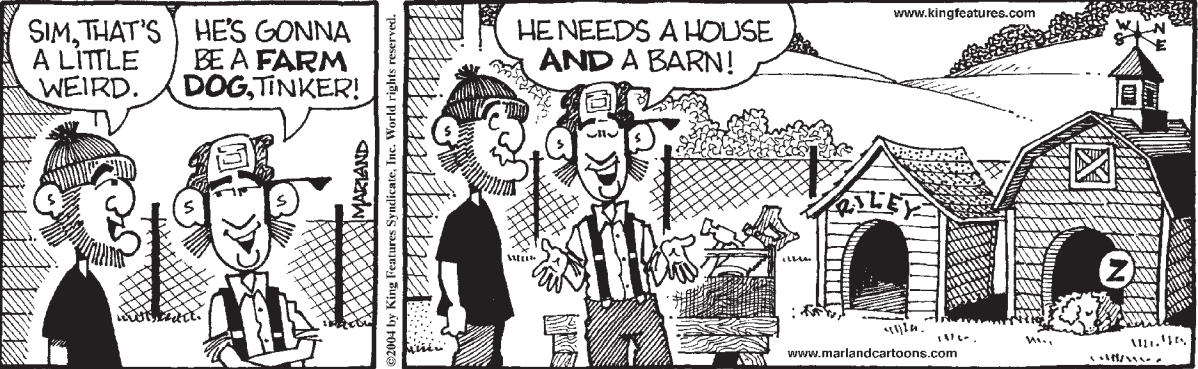
THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Classified Ads

LEGAL

El Paso Collaborative Invitation to Bid

The El Paso Collaborative for Community & Economic Development is accepting bids for the construction of 10 new homes in Tornillo, Texas, starting May 21, 2004 and due June 4, 2004 by 5 p.m. Packets may be picked up at 1359 Lomaland, Suite 517, El Paso, Texas 79935. Bid packets are available at the El Paso Collaborative office, 1359 Lomaland, Suite 571 El Paso. Packets include a site plan and specifications. The homes need to meet visitability and

exceed IECC 2000 code guidelines. The size of the homes average between 1,100 to 1,600 sq. ft. Eight (8) of the homes will be three (3) bedrooms and two (2) of the homes will be four (4) bedrooms. The Construction Contractor will be required to build 5 homes simultaneously. For further information, contact Delia Ponce at the Collaborative (915) 629-6702. WTCC-05/27/04

FABENS ISD Invitation to Bid

Sealed bids will be received by the Fabens Independent School District until 2 p.m., local

time, Wednesday, June 9, 2004, bid number 03-04-01 Cafeteria Non-Food Bids. Bids will then be opened and read aloud at the Fabens ISD Central Administration Building in the Board room located at 821 N.E. "G" St., Fabens, Texas 79838, 915-764-2025. Bid packets may be picked up at the Fabens ISD Central Office. Bid awards will be awarded by the Fabens ISD board of trustees at their regularly scheduled board meeting in July, 2004. WTCC-05/27/04

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				O	N	E	A		F	I	A	T		D	I	L	A	T	O	R	Y
B	A	K	I	N	G	P	O	T	A	T	O		E	M	O						
A	L	A		G	O	B			R	E	B	A		M	O	O	S	E			
R	O	Y	A	L		G	O	O	D	T	I	M	E	S	M	O	T	H	E	R	
O	H	A	R	A		E	E	R	I	E		M	A	T	A		H	I	E	D	
N	A	K	E	D		E	S	S	E	X		A	R	A	B		Y	O	K	E	

Save time, stop checkout stress

By Don Flood

Thanks to the good folks at Good Housekeeping, you can now shave 1 minute and 22 seconds off your next trip to the food store.

It's true! Good Housekeeping Institute testers have determined that if you use a self-checkout instead of the regular checkout, it will take you 5 minutes and 33 seconds — on average — rather than 6 minutes and 55 seconds!

This is great news for time-crunched Americans, who must save all the seconds they can to allow them maintain their rigorous schedule of TV watching — a task that for the average American now consumes 4 hours and 25 minutes each day.

(Think about it, those five minutes shy of the half-hour mark must mean people are missing the beginning or end of important TV shows!)

The institute also noted the self-checkout gives shoppers more "control and is less stressful."

You're not kidding. Dealing with supermarket cashiers is extremely stressful.

They're nice enough. In fact, that's the problem. You have these normal, everyday people, and yet they scan — one by one — all this disgusting *stuff* you are buying.

(You also have the people behind you, who often look disapprovingly on your shopping choices, but a sidelong glance at what they're buying usually puts them in line.)

But for the cashier's benefit, you have no choice but to make up stories:

"Yeah, we're entertaining a group of 485 teenagers for Thanksgiving. That's why we have to buy all this junk food — you know how kids are!"

Unfortunately, "checkout stress" — one of America's fastest growing disorders — leads to even more eating, which is why Dr. Phil has come to save us.

I don't blame Dr. Phil for jumping on the diet bandwagon, but who died and made him Mr. Weight Loss — Orson Welles?

OK, so he's not a porker, but he's not exactly the guy you want to be sitting next to when the mashed potatoes are making their way around the table either.

I doubt restaurant owners are real thrilled when they see Dr. Phil belly up to the buffet line.

Speaking of which, a truly extraordinary thing has happened in the annals of buffet eating. A couple got thrown out of a buffet restaurant called — this is true — Chuck-A-Rama for eating too much roast beef.

I do have some sympathy for the couple. Let's face it, when you go to a buffet named *Chuck-A-Rama* — and I deeply apologize for this horrible joke in advance, but which in my elementary school would have been known *instantaneously* as *Upchuck-A-Rama* — you're not going there for a fine dining experience.

You're going there to chow down.

In fact, I wouldn't be surprised see a Chuck-A-Rama dispense with such unnecessary refinements as knives and forks and let people waddle up to a trough:

"New farm-style buffet! Real food, real simple — and we hose you off afterward!"

But to get kicked out? This is something for your high-school reunion.

Accomplishments since graduation: First man ever to get bounced from Chuck-A-Rama buffet for eating too much.

I doubt even Dr. Phil could claim that one.

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Canutillo high student's patriotism wins prize

CANUTILLO — Sigifredo Andujo, Canutillo High Senior, took home a \$600 scholarship and a \$200 savings bond for his essay, "My Commitment to America's Future," which won first place in the Voice of Democracy essay contest by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary recently.

Hundreds of high school students entered the essay contest, according to Margaret Flores, auxiliary chairman for the Voice of Democracy essay contest which she described as "very important, I think, because it gives them a way to express themselves."

Andujo said that he heard about the contest through his school counselor's secretary, who recommended he enter the contest because of his writing skills. He said that the contest is a way for young people to show their patriotism. "I think it gives young people an opportunity to express how proud they are of their country."

Sigifredo Andujo

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Medicare-approved drug discount care available June 1

Long awaited help with the consistently growing cost of prescription drugs is finally here. Effective June 1, 2004, the Medicare approved drug discount card becomes a reality for many individuals. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have taken necessary steps to make this program easy to access. If you have any questions as to how to qualify for a drug discount card, all you have to do is call 1-800-Medicare or visit www.medicare.gov. Here you will find a program titled "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs" which will guide you to the process of determining whether you are a likely candidate for the discount card or not. If you pass the initial screening, it will provide you with a list of different discount card providers, which are private companies such as pharmacies or insurance companies which offer a discount

card for people with Medicare. There are two new options for individuals with Medicare: Medicare approved drug discount cards and a \$600 credit to pay for prescriptions. Individuals have been able to enroll under this program since early May 2004 and will be able to do so until December 31, 2005. The enrollment fee will be no more than \$30 per calendar year. Individuals will be able to save 10 to 25 percent off their prescription drugs with the new Medicare approved drug discount card. There are no income restrictions for the drug discount card but there are guidelines in place to determine if individuals are exempted from having to pay annual fee. Individuals with income less than \$12,569.00 or married couples with income less than \$16,862.00 will not have to pay \$30 fee. In addition, these individuals will receive a \$600 yearly credit fee towards their prescriptions. Individuals will be eligible to enroll if they have Medicare, Parts A and B and if they are not covered under any other prescription drug benefit plan such as their State Medicaid Program, TriCare for Life, Federal Employee Health Benefits Plans or Employers Group Health Plan. CMS publication CMS-11062, Guide







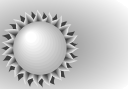

to Choosing a Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card can help in answering any questions or concerns. Effective January 2006, individuals under Medicare will have Part D, voluntary prescription drug coverage which will be subject to a monthly premium of \$35 a month.

For more information visit your local social security office, see 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, 11111 Gateway West, Attn: Ray Vigil, El Paso, Texas 79935.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Times of clouds and sun; breezy in the afternoon.	Clear.	A good deal of sun with a gusty breeze.	Mostly sunny and windy.	Windy with plenty of sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Sunny.	A good deal of sunshine.
▲ 82°	▼ 66°	▲ 86° ▼ 66°	▲ 90° ▼ 66°	▲ 90° ▼ 66°	▲ 92° ▼ 68°	▲ 94° ▼ 68°	▲ 94° ▼ 68°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

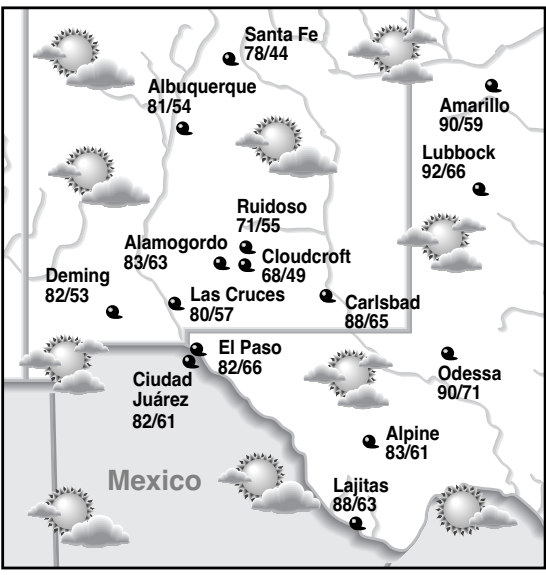
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	10Very High
Friday	10Very High
Saturday	10Very High
Sunday	10Very High
Monday	10Very High
Tuesday	10Very High
Wednesday	10Very High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	82	63
Canutillo	82	64
Clint	82	66
E. Montana	82	66
Fabens	82	66
Horizon	83	67
San Elizario	80	64
Socorro	81	65
Tornillo	82	66
Vinton	82	64

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	81/54/pc	78/56/s	83/55/s	79/55/s	86/59/s
Atlanta	88/68/pc	86/68/t	86/68/t	86/68/pc	86/66/sh
Atlantic City	74/54/s	76/56/t	78/59/pc	78/58/s	68/53/c
Austin/San Antonio	92/71/s	90/73/s	92/72/pc	92/73/pc	94/75/c
Baltimore	80/56/s	80/60/t	80/60/pc	82/64/t	78/55/t
Boston	72/52/sh	70/52/t	72/52/pc	70/52/s	64/51/c
Chicago	72/56/r	76/58/sh	80/62/pc	82/62/t	63/45/c
Denver	77/49/s	77/47/s	70/43/t	68/43/pc	70/43/s
Flagstaff	72/36/pc	67/38/s	65/36/pc	67/38/s	76/43/s
Houston	92/74/pc	92/74/s	90/72/r	90/72/r	90/75/c
Kansas City	84/63/pc	84/65/t	84/67/t	80/55/t	70/51/pc
Las Vegas	92/68/s	90/66/pc	84/62/pc	88/66/s	92/68/s
Miami	88/75/s	88/76/s	88/76/s	88/78/s	93/77/s
Minneapolis	73/55/t	78/59/pc	75/60/t	74/49/t	62/45/c
New Orleans	89/74/s	89/76/s	90/76/s	91/75/t	93/75/c
New York City	75/58/s	74/58/t	74/60/pc	73/59/s	67/56/c
Philadelphia	78/58/s	76/60/t	80/60/pc	80/62/s	68/56/c
Phoenix	96/66/pc	94/72/s	92/72/s	93/73/s	100/75/s
Portland	64/50/sh	63/50/sh	64/50/pc	69/53/r	77/55/c
San Francisco	66/54/pc	66/52/pc	68/54/s	71/54/r	74/54/s
Seattle	60/48/sh	60/48/sh	62/48/pc	64/51/c	73/53/c
Tucson	90/56/pc	90/62/s	92/62/s	92/62/s	98/66/s
Washington, DC	82/60/s	82/62/t	82/64/pc	84/68/t	79/58/t

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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