



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Body unidentified

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigation Division, said a preliminary autopsy of a body found near a canal in Tornillo on Saturday, July 3, indicates the male victim, probably in his early 30's, died of heat stroke. An area resident training his dog near the canal found the body, which was not in the water, at about 8 a.m. It was located about 60 yards from Texas Hwy. 20 near Chubasco Rd., almost to the Hudspeth County line. A SO spokesman said the victim may be a foreign national, though not Mexican, and had been dead only a short time when discovered.

### Rio Grande report

The U.S. and Mexico have jointly announced the publication of the final phase of a multi-year binational study on toxic substances along the international boundary portion of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo. The study concluded that the chemicals found in the river's water, sediment and fish do not pose an immediate threat to human or aquatic life. The study, coordinated by the U.S. and Mexican sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission, was funded by the EPA and Mexico's national water agency, Comisión Nacional del Agua. Field data for the study was gathered in November of 1998. U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran and Mexican Commissioner J. Arturo Herrera of the IBWC jointly made the statement. The study indicated that some metals in sediment, chlorides, sulfates and dissolved solids are aspects of concern but are not immediate threats. While the concentrations were said to be consistent with the population, land use and industrial activities along the border, additional studies were recommended. The study can be viewed electronically at [www.ibwc.state.gov](http://www.ibwc.state.gov), or a hard copy can be requested at 915-832-4701.

### Socorro incident

Investigation is continuing into the death of Jesus Manuel Cervantes, 36, who died in custody of the Socorro Police Department on Saturday, July 3. An El Paso County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division spokesman said the department was notified "about the unattended death involving the Socorro Police Department" at about 6 p.m. The preliminary autopsy report indicates "traumatic positional asphyxiation," the spokesman said, noting that final toxicology report is pending.

### In other news

■ El Paso City-County Health Environmental District Mobile Dental Van will be in Socorro July 1-July 31 from 8 a.m. to 4

See BRIEFS, Page 5

*Some folks demand the benefit of the doubt when there isn't any.*

— Quips & Quotes

## County high school students place first in HOSA national competition

*Courier Staff Reports*



Ruby Albidres

EL PASO COUNTY — Two budding health care professionals from El Paso County garnered national attention by winning first place in two categories June 22-26 at the National Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA) Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Ruby Albidres, who will be a junior this fall at Canutillo High School, placed first in Public Speaking Skills.

Socorro High School's Helen Jaksch, who will be a senior, placed first nationwide in the Prepared Speaking.

Also making it as a top ten finalist in the national competition was Cynthia Gallegos, who will be a senior in the fall at CHS. Gallegos competed in the pathophysiology event.

Jaksch, Albidres and Gallegos went up against high school students from all over the country to place in the national finals compe-



Helen Jaksch

tion. All three had to win in area and state contests to reach the national level. More than 5,000 students from throughout the United States participated in the national conference contests. Students vied for top honors in 46 different health occupation events.

"My speech was about the HOSA theme of this year 'With Nurturing Love and Caring

See HOSA, Page 4

## Clint community beautification efforts continue to garner state attention

CLINT — Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB), a statewide grassroots environmental organization, honored the Town of Clint's "Keep Clint Beautiful" efforts with Good Standing Status at their annual meeting in Austin on June 18.

Clint is one of more than 330 towns, cities, and counties in KTB's statewide network who take responsibility to care for their community environments.

Keep Clint Beautiful was established in January 2003 and was last year's winner of the Governor's Community Achievement Award. Clint will not be eligible to win this award again until 2006, however, their environmental awareness and beautification efforts earned them the Award of Excellence for the second year in row.

Keep Clint Beautiful implements programs to prevent litter, minimize solid waste, beautify and improve community areas, and educate citizens.

Annually, to achieve a level of good standing, KTB Affiliates submit a report, pay a fee, attend at least one training session, and participate in at least one KTB endorsed activity. KTB, through recognition, hopes to motivate their affiliates to continue their commendable efforts year-round.

Keep Clint Beautiful is endorsed by the local government but is not funded by taxpayer money. Last year KCB held six cleanup events, two beautification events and two environmental awareness campaigns funded through donations received from the community, local businesses and state agencies.

The volunteer man hours from KCB for the cleanup events saved the local community \$13,758.

Keep Texas Beautiful, the statewide grassroots environmental organization and affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, strives to empower Texans through education to take responsibility for enhancing their community environment. KTB works with volunteers, elected officials, businesses and state and federal agencies to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to take individual responsibility for making Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation.

For more information on programs and events, call 1-800-CLEAN-TX or visit the website at [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org). For more information on programs and events for Keep Clint Beautiful, call (915)851-3146.

## Davenport ES project beautifies campus

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — A physical education activity blossomed into a multi-purpose horticulture project for sixth grade students at Deanna Davenport Elementary School.

Under the guidance of ten teachers and P.E. coaches, about 100 sixth grade students took part in a campus beautification project throughout the school year that culminated in May with the planting of a variety of desert-resistant trees, bushes, and flowers.

Students learned about horticulture, developed social skills, and improved their sense of pride in themselves and their school, according to Margie Alvarez, Davenport ES physical education teacher.

The Davenport ES Horticultural Team and the Health, Education, and Recreation Outdoors (HERO) programs coordinated the campus project, which was funded through a Service Learning grant.

"I'm so proud of the growth I saw in these students throughout this learning activity. This is what service learning projects are all about, giving back to the community," Alvarez said.

"Students researched on the Internet and in the library for plants that would thrive in the

desert, they used measuring skills to design the flower beds using bricks, they learned about different types of soils and composts, and they learned to use gardening tools. They also kept a journal to write essays about the information they were gathering and the activities they were experiencing," explained Susana Garcia, Davenport ES sixth grade teacher.

Students planted a dozen trees including cottonwood, oak, and honey locust; 32 bushes:

16 Spanish Broom and 16 Lantanas; and about 75 different types of colorful flowers: annuals, perennials, snapdragons, and verbenas.

"I learned a lot about how to plant flowers and bushes," said Alexa Alaniz, Davenport ES sixth grade student.

"For example, I learned that flowers should be planted about one foot apart from each other."

The year-long project culminated with a special ceremony to recognize students, teachers, community participants and business owners for their contributions and hard work to help make this project a success.

"I am very proud of this students' creative project because it involved academic skills such as math, reading, and writing skills, promoted ecological values, and instilled a real sense of pride in their school," said Sylvia Gonzalez, Davenport ES principal.



**GREEN THUMBS GALORE — Davenport Elementary School Principal Sylvia Gonzalez puts the finishing touch to the sixth grade students' campus beautification project during a special ceremony in May.**





One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A little industry

I can hear the pans banging in the kitchen. It's a beautiful morning and my kids are in there making breakfast.

No, it's not mother's or father's day. Not even a birthday. They are just doing it so I won't have to, this being a really busy day for me.

Industry used to be something we valued in our kids. Nowadays, it means little more than something we want to locate in our cities to enrich our tax base.

Industrious is one of those old-fashioned words that people don't use very often to describe other people, though the dictionary simply defines it as diligent and busy. Its common use as a desirable human adjective went by the wayside along with generous, patient, reliable, polite and abstinent.

The educational sector, delegated the responsibility of shaping our next generation, doesn't use it at all. Instead they prefer buzz-words like "advanced," or "gifted and talented."

That leaves out most of us and our kids. But industriousness doesn't care how high your IQ is, if you have team leadership potential, or have outside-the-box thought processes. It just gets things done.

Industry is not interested in showing up the faults and failures in other people, and it doesn't engage in cut-throat competition — the highest valued commodity we love to deny we value in today's society. Instead, a little industry will get you out of bed in the morning, your bed made, your room picked up, your hair combed, and your clothes on in a timely fashion.

Imagine how much we could accomplish as a nation if the entire American population was up, dressed and busy before noon.

I'm not talking about everybody becoming over-achieving workaholics, either. I mean simply doing what needs to be done, a little at a time, as much as is within the ability of each individual person.

I heard a comment on a documentary recently from a young man who was team leader of a group attempting a difficult physical task that was routinely performed by early settlers in America. His comment was very insightful, I thought.

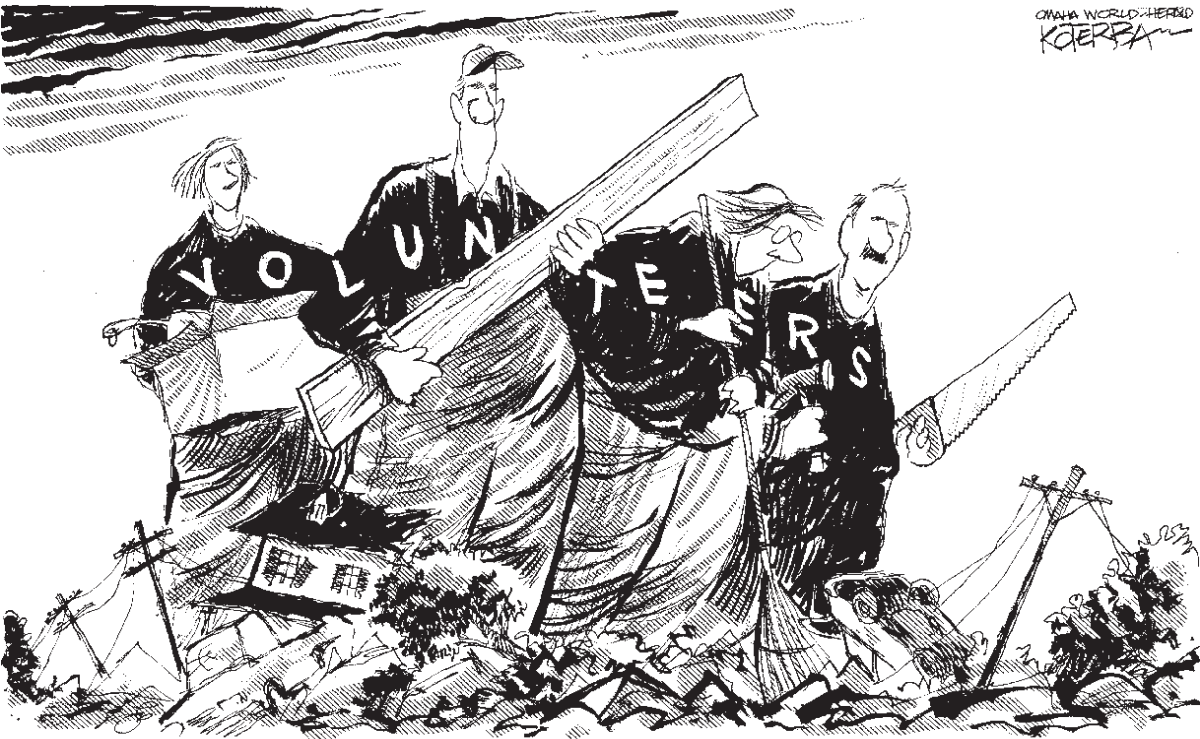
He said the reason his forbears were able to succeed where his team had failed was because they were spurred on by survival — in short, if they weren't successful, they faced almost certain death from environmental circumstances.

Survival used to breed industry in humans. From the time they could walk, kids were involved in some way in the day-to-day tasks of simply keeping the family alive. They picked up fuel for the fire, gathered eggs, nuts or fruit, performed simple food preparation, cared for the small livestock, and often exercised a level of maturity and responsibility lacking in even our older teenagers these days.

We talk a lot about how rugged individualism founded this nation, but we have completely lost sight of the fact that the "rugged individuals" were simply fathers, mothers and children who often gave up their lives, one back-breaking task at a time, to help keep the rest of the family alive — the wagon rolling, the livestock fed, the crops planted, cultivated and harvested, the water hauled.

Nowadays, we don't like to sacrifice even a TV program to listen to that bothersome kid's problem. It's too big a thing to set aside time in our schedules to help our kids do their homework, cook a hot meal when we're tired, or make a chore list and see that it gets done.

Industry isn't one of those things that



just happens. Like most virtues, it requires a teacher and since survival isn't currently on the teaching roster, it falls to us as parents, and it is equally unfortunate that parents aren't around much either — certainly not two of them, of opposite sexes, equally involved in the industry of producing whole and healthy citizens.

I wonder, sometimes, what would happen if all the layers of comfort and security with which we have insulated ourselves were suddenly dissolved and our families were faced with the rudimentary tasks of simply staying alive.

Would we be capable of pulling together or would we instead turn on each other in selfish anger because we are personally uncomfortable, cold or hot, even hungry? How many generations would it take for industry to be re-learned?

That's where the real IQ test begins — of our Industry Quotient.

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

### Medicare law needs improvement

The new Medicare-prescription drug law is slated to take full effect in 2006 and is already starting to raise concerns among El Paso seniors.

Rose Marie Gonzalez conveyed her thoughts in a letter to the editor in the June 23, 2004 El Paso Times. Ms. Gonzalez was concerned with the termination of the Together Card, a program created by several pharmaceutical companies to provide savings to needy Medicare enrollees in the absence of federal Medicare prescription drug coverage.

As the new Medicare law includes a prescription drug benefit, use of the Together Card will end in 2006, when the drug benefit under the new law becomes available. Unfortunately, though, the new drug benefit does not guarantee the same low prices currently enjoyed under the Together Card and is insufficient to meet many seniors' needs.

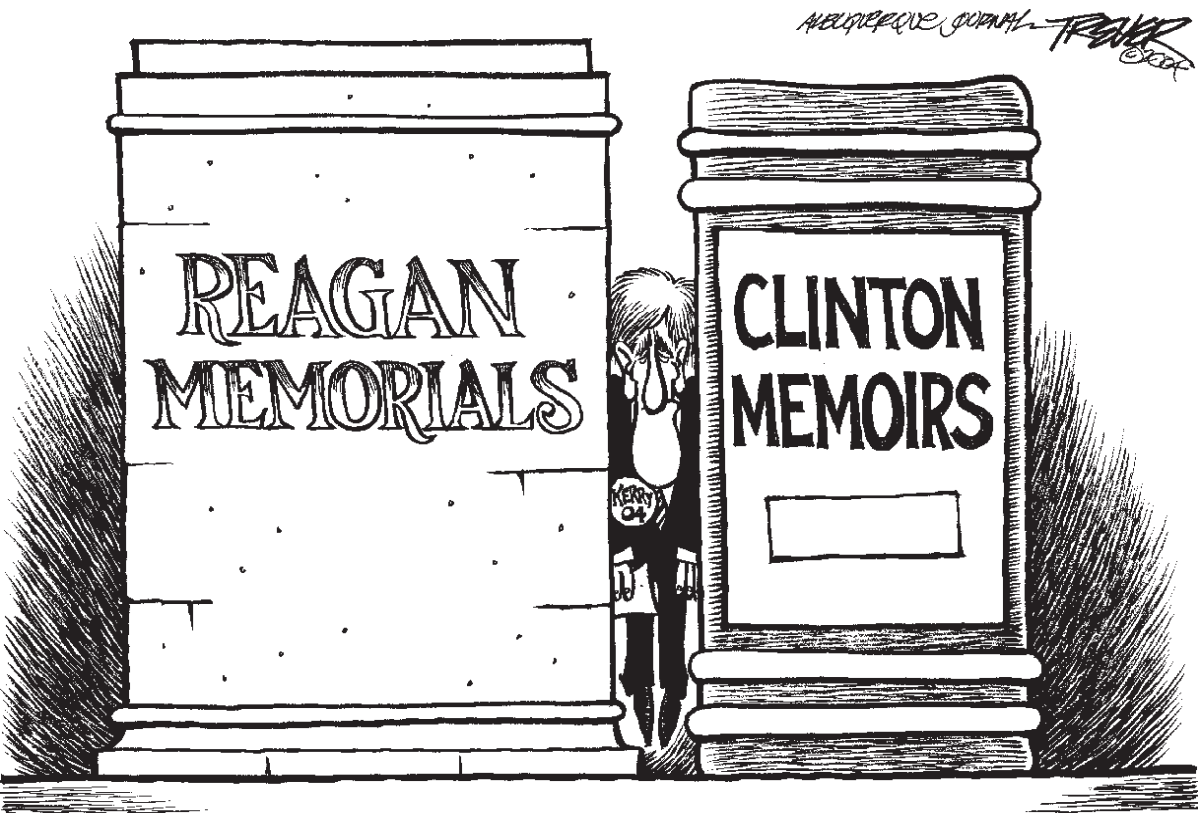
Rather than empowering Medicare to use its purchasing power to negotiate better drug prices, as the Veterans Administration currently does, the bill prohibits Medicare from doing so. As a result, pharmaceutical companies benefit, but taxpayers will have to pay for the higher costs. Instead of expanding re-importation of prescription drugs, with appropriate safety checks, the bill blocks re-importation. By doing so, it ensures that Americans will continue to pay high drug prices here at home.

I understand the frustrations with the recently enacted Medicare law. In fact, when the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 came before Congress on Nov. 22, 2003, I voted against the bill. While I have long been a strong advocate for providing America's senior citizens with an affordable, comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare, I could not support an extremely expensive program for the nation's taxpayers that will harm rather than help most of the 77,500 Medicare beneficiaries in El Paso County.

Before the Medicare prescription drug program goes into effect in 2006, I will fight for improvements to the program that will help El Paso seniors afford their medications. Medicare needs to be able to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies and we need to expand the safe re-importation of prescription drugs which would also help lower prices.

El Paso seniors — and those across the country — deserve a quality Medicare prescription drug program that they can afford. If you currently pay certain prices under private plans, you should pay the same — or less — under the new prescription drug benefit. For many seniors, prescription drugs are an essential part of maintaining their health. It is necessary that Congress provide an effective program to help them afford those drugs.





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

Ten steps to owning your own home

Did you know that home ownership is at a new high in our country and interest rates are at a new lows? There is no better investment than owning your own home. I'd like to share a few thoughts with you that make the home-buying easier.

The single best piece of advice I can give families looking to buy a home is to educate yourselves on the home-buying process. With the help of homebuyer education programs and down payment assistance funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), families are learning how to navigate the home-buying process and realizing their homeownership dreams.

Here are 10 tips on how to navigate the home-buying process:

1. Obtain a credit report. You can request a free online credit report from any of the major credit-reporting agencies - Equifax, Transunion or Experian.
2. Attend a home-buying workshop conducted by HUD, real estate organizations or lenders. These will guide you through the basics of the home-buying process and outline a to-do list on how to proceed. At these workshops, you can learn about HUD down payment and closing cost assistance and grant programs, your

eligibility and how to apply for these. HUD plays a large role in homeownership by making loans available for lower- and moderate-income families.

3. Contact a lender. Lenders can help pre-qualify you for loans and help you determine your buying power. Pre-qualification is an informal but necessary way to see how much you may be able to borrow. Without any obligation, this helps you arrive at an estimate of the amount you may have available to spend on a house.
4. Choose a real estate broker. Determine what you are looking for in a home. Your home should fit the way you live, with spaces and features that appeal to the whole family. Before you begin looking at homes, make a list of your priorities.
5. Do your homework. Visit several homes. Ask lots of questions. Research home prices in the area before you bid on the home of your choice. Take pictures. Make notes.
6. Be realistic about your capabilities. Aim for a home you can really afford, based on what you earn and what you owe.
7. Determine what type of loan program is best for you. Lenders now offer several affordable mortgage

options which can help first-time homebuyers overcome obstacles that made purchasing a home difficult in the past. Lenders may now be able to help borrowers who don't have a lot of money saved for the down payment and closing costs, have no or a poor credit history, have quite a bit of long-term debt or have experienced income irregularities.

8. Enlist a home inspector. He or she will bring out potential problems that could require costly repairs down the road. An inspector checks the safety of your potential new home.
9. Buy a home insurance policy. A paid homeowner's insurance policy is required at closing, so arrangements will have to be made prior to that day. Plus, involving the insurance agent early in the home buying process can save you money.
10. Enjoy your home and invest in it. Owning a home has many benefits. When you make a mortgage payment, you are building equity. Owning a home also qualifies you for tax breaks that assist you in dealing with your new financial responsibilities like insurance, real estate taxes and upkeep.



Far West Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan

WEST TEXAS — Six counties, represented by their county governments, the Office of Emergency Management for the City/County of El Paso, The Rio Grande Council of Governments, and the Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Liaison Officer are sponsoring the development of a comprehensive Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The cities and counties included are in a six county area: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster Counties, said Ray Resendez, assistant coordinator with the El Paso City/County Emergency Management

techniques that will help the State and FEMA understand area vulnerabilities and evaluate future policies and regional projects.

While a single, area-wide plan has been developed, each local jurisdiction has its own "sector." Mitigation actions have been integrated. Each local jurisdiction's "sector" must be reviewed and adopted by its governing body, such as a City Council or Commissioners' Court after FEMA has made its recommendations.

Process of Development

The Office of Emergency Management of the City/County of El Paso, the Rio Grande Council of Governments, and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management Regional Liaison Officer are providing technical support to all participating jurisdictions. The entire plan must comply with the State of Texas Planning Standards for Mitigation Action Plans issued by the State Division of Emergency Management in the Texas Department of Public Safety. It also must comply with Section 201 of Section 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The planning process has involved the following steps:

The planning area includes the following communities. In El Paso County: City of El Paso, Village of Vinton, City of Anthony, City of Socorro, Town of Horizon City and Town of Clint; Hudspeth County: City of Dell City; Culberson County: Town of Van Horn; Presidio County: City of Marfa, City of Presidio; Jeff Davis County: City of Valentine; Brewster County: City of Alpine.

The purpose of this planning initiative is to develop a comprehensive, Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets all State and Federal requirements. The Plan will help localities maintain their eligibility for certain future Federal funding, especially the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. A FEMA-approved plan is also required to participate in the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program and in projects under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

The Far West Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan

The plan will outline actions designed to address and reduce the impact of a full range of natural hazards facing Far West Texas, including such natural hazards as floods, high winds, tornados, winter storms, earthquakes and extreme heat.

For the Far West Texas Region, a multi-jurisdictional planning approach has been implemented. Having multiple jurisdictions work together on common hazards/risks eliminates the need for each local jurisdiction to devise its own approach and prepare its own separate plan. Further, it will result in common plan formats and loss estimation

Hazard Identification

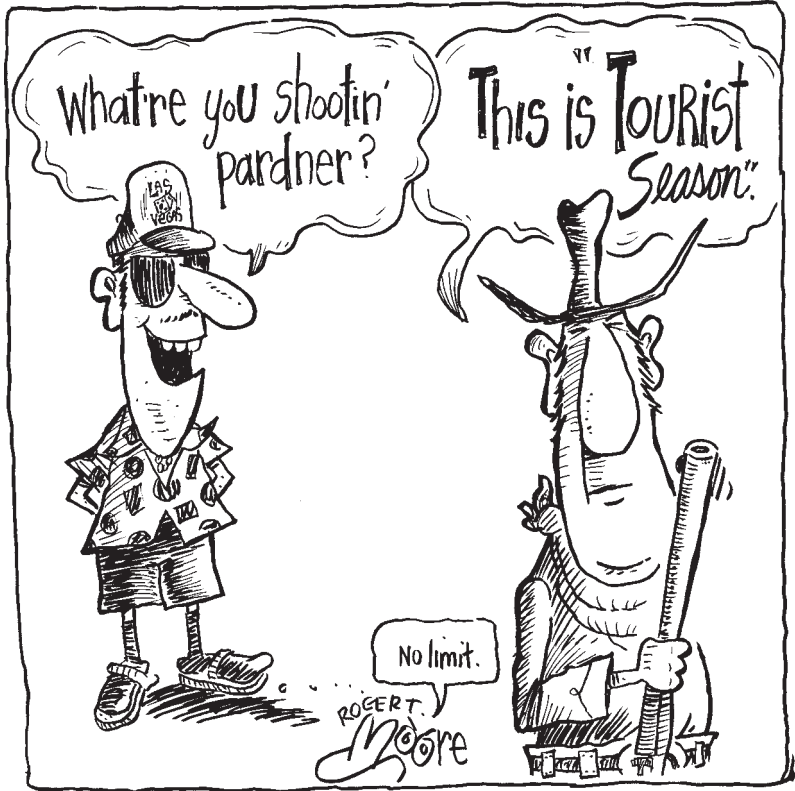
Each jurisdiction has appointed a representative, usually the Emergency Management Coordinator, to assist in the collection and identification of the jurisdictions' hazards. Information has been compiled on the occurrence of natural hazard events in and around participating communities. Hazards that affect the area have been identified based on historical and other data. The project team has searched nationally available data sources for listings of hazard events, by County (sector), and provided a list of the top hazards to local jurisdictions for review and comment.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment involved the collection and integration of data, including an inventory of assets that may be affected by natural hazard, such as people, housing units, critical facilities, special facilities,

See PLAN, Page 4

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore. We spend more money on hunting than any other state.





## Keeping up with immunizations protects child, community TDH says

AUSTIN — Perhaps it’s a letter from your child’s day care center. Or it may be among the list of requirements for school enrollment. Whatever the timing, the message is the same: Your child needs to be up to date on immunizations.

Texas Department of Health (TDH) officials urge parents to begin monitoring their children’s immunizations records from birth, rather than waiting until a deadline rolls around.

According to Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Texas Commissioner of Health, children should receive 80 percent of their childhood vaccinations by the time they are 2 years old.

“When children are not vaccinated, they are susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases,” Sanchez said. “Vaccines are health protecting. They are safe and they are effective. They are one of the great public health achievements of the last century. But we must continue to remind people that controlling vaccine-preventable diseases is an on-going process.”

Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis or whooping cough, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella,

pneumococcal diseases, chickenpox, influenza, bacterial meningitis, and polio are the baker’s dozen of diseases that children are routinely vaccinated for.

Disease-causing viruses and bacteria circulate in the United States and around the world. Those not currently a problem in this country may be just a visit or an airplane ride away, Sanchez said. For example, highly contagious measles is no longer circulating in the United States, but the virus sometimes is brought in from other parts of the world. Vaccines have made their mark against this sometimes deadly disease. In 1958, Texas recorded 88,000 cases of measles. Last year, no measles cases were reported in the state, and just one was listed for Texas in 2002.

“Fewer and fewer people remember the fears that surrounded the deadly paralytic polio either,” Sanchez said. “It has been a half century since we began using the polio vaccine.”

In 1950, paralytic polio struck about 3,000 people in the state. Polio vaccine was licensed in the United

States in 1955; and since 1977, not one case of polio has occurred in Texas. Polio caused by wild-type viruses has been eliminated from the Western Hemisphere for more than a decade.

Sanchez said immunizations protect children, families, schools and communities. Children who are not appropriately immunized increase the chance that others will get diseases. “One unvaccinated child can pass a serious disease on to a younger child, to a pregnant woman or to an elderly relative,” Sanchez said.

The timing of immunizations also is important. “Vaccines are recommended for use at the time when they can best protect the child and when the child is most vulnerable,” he said.

Among the suggestions for parents from the TDH are:

- Get your child vaccinated on time, every time.
- Finish any vaccine series your child starts.
- Ask your health care provider if your child is up to date on vaccinations at every visit.
- Ask your health care provider or clinic staff to remind you when your child needs immunizations.
- Get a copy of the immunization schedule from your health care provider or clinic or view it on the TDH Web site at [www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/imm\\_sched.htm](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/imm_sched.htm).
- Keep your child’s immunization record in a safe place where you can find it easily.
- Contact your local health department or call the TDH Immunization Division toll free at 1-800-252-9152 for information on childhood immunizations.

## Socorro hires Clint’s police chief, starts search for city manager

By Arleen Beard  
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — The laundry list of unfilled permanent posts in the city government of the City of Socorro was reduced on July 1, when council members filled several positions, including that of police chief.

For about two years, the City of Socorro has been without a permanent Chief of Police, having two interim chiefs during this period. Last week Council members hired Klaus (Bill) Mansion as the new Chief of Police.

Mansion is currently the Chief of Police for nearby Clint, Texas.

Interim Chief of Police Jesus Ortega served for most of the period until his resignation a few months ago. Then Council appointed Manuel Ponce as Interim Chief of Police.

City Council also filled several other positions including Mark Threadgill as City Clerk, and Carol Garcia as Administrative Clerk/Municipal Court Clerk.

In other business, Council approved hiring RM Personnel to assist in finding candidates for the position of city manager, which has been filled on an interim basis by Reyes Fierro. The position, created by order of the City Charter, has never been held by a permanent hire, only by an interim appointee. Council members were expected to receive a list of top candidates from RM Personnel and then will conduct the interviews.

In other business, Council denied a petition for Voluntary Annexation on 14 lots at the request of the homeowners of the lots. The petition was submitted by Attorney Richard Contreras on behalf of Clint, Texas and the lot owners, on May 27, 2004.

## HOSA

From Page 1

Smiles, HOSA Goes the Extra Mile,” Jaksch said. “I told them that even the littlest things we do for patients could change that patient’s life; that caring smiles help, and that communication is the power in the medical field. I also said you can’t do your job unless you can communicate with patients and fellow workers.”

To claim top honors, Albidres had to write a speech, memorize it, and orally present it to a panel of four judges. “I was on stage waiting for the results. When I heard that I won first place, I felt really excited because I had tried so hard, but I didn’t think I was going to win,” said Albidres.

“I think I won because I made my presentation fun and easy to understand. In my speech I referred to the story about the little engine that could in talking about my efforts to earn my nurse’s aide certification and my goal to become a registered nurse,” Albidres said.

Albidres gave her Health Science Technology teachers, Mark Wilson and Julie Vinikoff, credit for helping

her prepare for the competitions. “They gave me a lot of encouragement and good advice about speaking in front of a group of people,” she said.


During the awards ceremony, Jaksch says she wasn’t sure she’d heard her name — but once she realized it meant first place, she was ecstatic. “They bring the Top 10 up on the stage, and my name was the last one. I had to look at the screen to make sure it was me!”

Jaksch plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in theater first and pursue medical studies. Her school of choice is Cornell University.

“Winning first place in the nation was simply amazing,” said Wilson of his students. “(The girls) worked so hard all year to get to the national level, and it got harder and the talent was better as they advanced at each level,” said Wilson.

“I recommend students look into the health occupations program if they want to get into a health profession; HOSA is a good place to start. I have met a lot of new people and experienced new things,” Albidres said.

— Alfredo Vasquez  
contributed to this story

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## Plan

From Page 3

infrastructure and lifelines, hazardous materials facilities and commercial facilities. The Rio Grande Council of Governments is acting as the central data warehouse for all information collected from each local jurisdiction.

### Mitigation Strategy Implementation

Based on the findings of the initial information gathered during the risk assessment, the project team working closely with counties and municipalities has prepared a “draft” of an overall mitigation strategy for the area. For review of the “draft” plan, visit the Rio Grande Council of Governments website at: [www.riocog.org](http://www.riocog.org) under Emergency Management: Far West Texas Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### Plan Review, Adoption and Approval

In accordance with Federal and State requirements, the governing bodies of each participating jurisdiction must review and approve that portion of the overall plan that affects their jurisdiction. To help accomplish this, each jurisdiction is seeking public input on the proposal “draft” plan. Input is requested and accepted by The Office of Emergency Management at [oem@ci.el-paso.tx.us](mailto:oem@ci.el-paso.tx.us), or by mail at El Paso City/County, Emergency Management Mitigation Plan, 8600 Montana, El Paso, Texas 79925.

The plan will be revised based on the consolidated input from the jurisdiction. The regional plan will then be submitted to the Regional Liaison Officer and forwarded to the State Division of Emergency Management for review, and then onward to FEMA Region VI in Denton, Texas for final review and approval.



# Canutillo ISD faces unknown factors in developing a five-year plan

By Don Woodyard  
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The administration of the Canutillo ISD painted a detailed five-year picture of the direction the district will be taking at a recent special board meeting.

However, that picture of and foun-

ation for the future was framed and fraught with “what ifs.”

- 1) What if student population continues its current growth rate;
- 2) What if new housing developments, which directly impact student population growth, come in as projected;
- 3) What if additional, unplanned, housing subdivisions are built;

- 4) What if state financial aid and the financial aid formulas continue as planned; and
- 5) What if developers cancel plans for new housing. And there is the flip side, the negative aspects. What if any or all of the above elements do not become part of the picture?

It was clear from the administrators’ presentations that there are

many elements of the planning process over which they have no control. As a consequence, the educators, at best, can make only educated guesses.

Superintendent Charles Hart painted a brief picture of his own prior to individual administration presentations.

“The Canutillo school district has a bright future.” In a district publication, he amplified his statement.

“The Canutillo Independent School District stands at the threshold of a new era with increasing challenges in student population growth, academic standards and accountability and rising financial demands.”

Here are the highlights:

Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent for operations and planning, discussed student population growth which he sees continuing at an average three percent a year. Currently there are approximately 4,800 students with an increase to more than 6,000 projected over the next several years. The majority of these students, 60 percent, are in elementary schools. The remaining 40 percent are divided equally between middle and high schools.

Growth is based on 12 housing additions currently under construction or planned. It was pointed out that there is no guarantee that all of these housing developments will be completed or that there might be others.

The new high school is expected to open over the Christmas holidays of 2005 with an expected 1,600 students. After the high school is com-



Charles Hart

pleted, the middle school will be converted to a fifth- and sixth-grade center.

The new high school isn’t the only new facility planned. The district is looking at Alderete Intermediate School to open for the 2006-07 year.

At the heart of the presentation by Dr. Pam Padilla, assistant superintendent for stu-

dent performance, was the goal that “all students will graduate from high school on time and fully prepared for success in post-secondary (community college/university) education and adult life.

“All students will reach high academic standards, attaining, at a minimum, proficiency or better in the foundation curriculum.”

She discussed the district’s focus on overcoming 17 barriers to achieving what she termed an “overarching” goal. The barriers include truancy, absenteeism as well as drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. They also encompass learning disabilities, low completion and high dropout rates, gang-related activities as well as challenges resulting from cultural, linguistic or economic diversity.

In her presentation she also explained the essential elements of new IGP’s (Individual Graduation Plans) to ensure students meet district and state criteria for graduation.

The upgrades to the educational program she sees as “mostly affordable.”

She concludes, “We’ve got a lot of challenges, but we feel we can take this on with the new technology to handle the increase of students.”

## Briefs

From Page 1

p.m. at the Rio Vista Community Center. To participate, families must reside within El Paso County and be between one and 21 years of age. Medicaid and private insurance are accepted, however, no child will be denied due to inability to pay. Registration packets are available at any County Community Center.

■ The Horizon City Community Chapel will host a garage sale on Saturday, July 10, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Multipurpose Center, located at 14802 Duanesburg, 852-3154.

■ Additional charges have been filed against Cesar Enriquez involving a head-on collision on June 5, which resulted in the death of Maria Esther Mares, who died of blunt force trauma at the scene. Enriquez was reportedly fleeing the scene of a traffic stop by law enforcement only minutes before he collided with the vehicle driven by Mares. He has been charged with intoxicated manslaughter in addition to existing charges of aggravated assault on a peace officer and evading arrest. Enriquez, a resident of Fabens, suffered leg injuries in the accident and remains in the El Paso County Jail under a combined

bond of \$25,600.

■ The U.S. Small Business Administration has published four new brochures in Spanish designed to provide its Spanish-speaking customers with additional, easy to use information about basic entrepreneurship and SBA resources. *Information for the Small Business Owner, How to Start Your own Business: A Practical Guide, How to Finance a Small Business, and Assistance for Small Businesses at Women’s Business Centers* are the latest additions now available to the general public through SBA district offices as well as through resource partners such as Small Business Development Centers and Women’s Business Centers in areas with large Hispanic populations throughout the country. They also will be available in electronic, downloadable (PDF) format on the SBA’s Spanish language Web site, at [www.negocios.gov](http://www.negocios.gov).

■ The Clint First Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School on July 19-23, for children ages kindergarten through sixth grade. Theme for the event is “Let’s Race to the Son — Konichiwa! Classes are scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon and more information is available at 851-1599 or 592-9081.

■ The Saturn V rocket outside NASA’s Johnson Space Center is being readied for a makeover. Of-

ficials with the Smithsonian Institution visited the center recently for an inspection. What they discovered was mold and other buildup from years of exposure to Houston’s heat and humidity. Considered one of the greatest engineering achievements of all time, the Saturn V rocket, the launch vehicle for the Apollo astronauts, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places last year through the efforts of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Smithsonian Institution. The rocket is the only surviving Saturn V that contains all the needed stages for flight. Plans include constructing a building to house the rocket, which will be restored. Supporters hope to raise enough funds to take advantage of a “Save America’s Treasures” matching grant. The grant is part of a public-private partnership with the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. About \$700,000 has been raised so far for the rocket restoration. For more information about this and other National Register nominations, contact the THC’s History Programs Division at 512/463-5853.

■ Persons without prescription drug insurance coverage may find assistance through a free discount card program. Information regarding the program is available at [www.freeusarxdiscountcard.com](http://www.freeusarxdiscountcard.com).



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## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SOCORRO, TEXAS

### NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PRECLEARANCE REQUEST

The City of Socorro has submitted an Agreed Order Approving Settlement Agreement from the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division in Cause No. EP-04-CA-0197-FM on June 29, 2004 to the United States Department of Justice for its review under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 §1973c. The Agreed Order approves a redistricting plan for the election of City Councilmembers from the four single-member Councilmember districts. A complete duplicate copy of the submission is available for public review in the Offices of the City Secretary, City of Socorro City Hall, 124 South Horizon Blvd., Socorro, Texas. Any comments regarding the submission may be sent to:

CHIEF, VOTING SECTION  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
ROOM 7245 - NWB  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
950 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

WTCC: 07/08/04



# Malfunctioning wardrobes should be more expensive

By Steve Escajeda  
*Special to the Courier*

I don't personally know the executives at Viacom, but I wouldn't be far off base if I referred to them as a bunch of boobs.

Well, "boobs" may not be the best of descriptions — but then again, it may be the best description considering the circumstances.

Seems Viacom may be looking at a sizable fine from the FCC for the Super Bowl stunt Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake pulled during the half-time show of last season's Carolina-New England Superbowl encounter.

You remember the spontaneous incident don't you?

Justin mistakenly placed his hand over Janet's right boob and very gently — *ripped* her tear-away breast cover off exposing her pastie-clad bosom to millions of unsuspecting football fans around the world, much to the delight, or dismay, of many in the audience depending on the particular age bracket and/or IQ.

In what had to have been the most feeble attempt to talk their way out of something since

Bill Clinton asked the question "it all depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is," Jackson and Timberlake blamed the whole thing on a "wardrobe malfunction."

The only wardrobe malfunction I've ever encountered is when the zipper gets stuck on my kid's jacket. Of course, I do remember the time Jason Rabedeaux split his pants during a Miner basketball game — but I truly believe that was spontaneous.

The FCC is considering fining 20 CBS affiliates over \$27,000 each for televising the boobtacular. That's a grand total of \$550,000.

Now \$550,000 may sound like a lot of money to you and me, but to CBS and Viacom? That's the equivalent of me dropping a dime out of my pocket and watching it roll down into the gutter. Believe me, it's not enough for me to peel off my jacket and go down in there after it.

Anyway, I guess the FCC feels they have to do something. As for me, I'm not a prude by any sense of the imagination, but I do feel there is a time and place for everything.

If Janet and Justin want to play "flash the flesh," there are probably many semi-reputable cable networks that would be honored to air it

at a suitable hour. But when my kids are sitting in my living room with me watching a football game during prime time, I want to be assured that they won't be exposed to anything I don't want them to see.

But then again, that's just me.

## More steroids please

There's been a whole bunch of talk over the last year or so concerning the abuse of steroids among some of the world's best-known athletes.

The biggest among them being San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds.

Well, it seems that another big name keeps coming up over and over and things could explode for her pretty soon.

See, about a year ago, a certain unnamed coach supplied the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency with a filled vial of THG, the newest steroid that has turned the whole battle against performance enhancing drugs upside down.

This unnamed coach had been using it to boost his athlete's performance — illegally, of course.

That certain unnamed coach now has an identity. He's Trevor Graham. Who is Trevor

Graham you ask? Allow me to enlighten you. Trevor Graham is the former personal track coach of world record-holding sprinter Marion Jones.

You know Marion Jones, America's track sweetheart, always goes for the gold — several medals at a time.

So what, you ask? Let the enlightening continue. Because of Graham's testimony to federal agents, two world class sprinters have been faced with the possibility of lifetime bans in their sport. They are Tim Montgomery and Michelle Collins.

Oh, by the way, Montgomery — who was also coached by Graham — and Marion Jones have a one-year-old child together.

I would find it very difficult to believe that parenthood is all the two were sharing.

All three — Jones, Montgomery and Collins — are competing in the United States Olympic track and field trials this weekend but it's not known whether all will be charged, if at all, with illegal drug use before the games begin in Athens.

Let's put it this way, the word "trials" will soon be a big part of these three athletes' lives. Just what kind of trial remains to be seen.

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## Protect your skin this summer

By Patty Guinto  
*Special to the Courier*

EL PASO COUNTY — Feeling pale? You may think that a golden tan looks healthy and attractive but sun worshippers beware: you could be causing skin cancer, the most common type of cancer in the United States.

The disease can result from long-term exposure to sunlight, which emits Ultraviolet Radiation (UV Rays) that damage skin cells and can lead to one of three types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. While

people should take precautions from sun exposure all year-round, protection is especially important during the summer months when the sun is directly overhead for a longer period and UV Ray levels are highest.

"Skin cancer, especially melanoma, can be deadly," says Lily Lai, M.D., skin cancer expert at City of Hope Cancer Center in Los Angeles. "Fortunately, skin cancers are preventable and highly curable if found and treated early."

Several risk factors increase the chance of skin cancer, but everyone is at risk of developing the disease. Some of these risk factors include: having fair skin that freckles easily;

living in warm climates with high sun exposure and/or high altitudes; occupational exposure, such as working outdoors; overall lifetime exposure to the sun; and having many moles.

Here are some tips to protect your skin from harmful UV Rays all year-round:

- Avoid exposure to mid-day sun, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., when UV Rays are most dangerous.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protective factor (SPF) of 15 or higher whenever you spend time outdoors. Remember to reapply sunscreen every 1 to 1 1-2 hours.
- Wear protective clothing such as hats and long-sleeved shirts that block the sun's rays.
- Protect young children from the sun's rays. The damaging effects of

UV Radiation can begin in childhood.

- Be careful when taking certain medications that may cause the skin to burn more easily. Check with your doctor or pharmacist to determine if your medication could be a problem.
- Avoid sun lamps and tanning booths.

"Having a tan, natural or artificial, is a sign that the skin has already been damaged," says Dr. Lai. "Since tanning booths expose you to ultraviolet rays just as the sun does, using a sunless tanner is the best way to get a tan without damaging your skin."

For more information about skin cancer research and treatment at City of Hope Cancer Center in Los Angeles, call 1-800-826-HOPE or visit [www.cityofhope.org](http://www.cityofhope.org).

## King Super Crossword

**STEP SAVER**  
**ACROSS**  
1 Costa del \_  
4 Shed  
9 Giant legend  
12 European capital  
18 Important numero  
19 First name in aviation  
21 Word with jacket or soup  
22 January stoat  
23 Start of a remark by 131 Across  
25 Jurassic giant  
27 Powerful beasts  
28 Fancy fabric  
30 Goes downhill fast?  
31 Summer hrs.  
32 Neighbor of Nev.  
35 Barnyard butter  
37 When pigs fly, to Tennyson  
40 Part 2 of remark  
50 Flamenco dancer's shout  
51 Use a colander  
52 Rage  
53 Supermarket section  
54 Novelist Radcliffe  
55 Like some light fixtures  
58 Adriatic seaport  
61 Capp's " \_ Abner"  
62 Sample the souffle  
64 Minnesota twins?

65 Gen. Robt. \_  
66 Skater Midori  
67 Exchange  
70 Camping equipment  
72 A bad figure?  
73 Fabric suffix  
74 Mayberry aunt  
76 Part 3 of remark  
79 Misjudge  
80 Rocky hill  
81 Pianist Templeton  
82 Swing around  
83 Periodic table info ('54 song)  
86 Tabula \_  
87 D-Day craft  
88 Herbert Hoover, for one  
92 Cookbook phrase  
93 "Suspect" star  
94 Agitated  
98 Cry's partner  
99 Actress Berger  
101 Palindromic title  
103 Lenya or Lehmann  
104 \_ premium  
105 End of remark  
111 Judge  
112 Copley or Hatcher  
113 Room for improvement?  
114 Drink like a dachshund  
117 Imminent  
119 " \_ Gay"  
123 Presque \_ , ME

127 Simple, to Sherlock  
131 Speaker of the remark  
134 Acid neutralizer  
135 Tell it like it isn't  
136 Provokes  
137 A mean Amin  
138 Micawber portrayer  
139 Author Wallace  
140 Indian state  
141 Damone or Dana

**DOWN**  
1 Rotund wrestling?  
2 Black  
3 Chris of The Pet Shop Boys  
4 Brit. fliers  
5 Rob Roy's uncle  
6 Basilica features  
7 Director Kazan  
8 Cheerful song  
9 \_ -Locka, FL  
10 '62 Tornadoes hit  
11 It may be small  
12 Tenant  
13 Lyricist Gershwin  
14 Dallas coll.  
15 Roc or robin  
16 Burden  
17 Heron's home  
20 Do a mechanic's job  
24 Machu Picchu native  
26 Sty cry

29 Eggy beverage  
33 One of the Jacksons  
34 Apollo's instrument  
36 In the thick of  
38 TV's "The Courtship of \_ Father"  
39 Nutritional abbr.  
40 Gravy vessel  
41 Forearm bone  
42 Itches  
43 Middle of a game?  
44 Hasten  
45 Entomologist's concern  
46 Defies a dictator  
47 More obsequious  
48 Susann or Steinbeck  
49 Cordage material  
56 Deceives  
57 Actress Parsons  
59 "Hi, Ho!"  
60 Adjust a timer  
63 Poetic monogram  
68 Islamic deity  
69 Bel \_  
71 Cubbins' creator  
74 Alley cat?  
75 Verdi hero  
77 Amulet motif  
78 Fish container?  
79 WWII area  
80 It may be eaten or drunk  
81 Penny \_  
84 With prudence

89 Cry of surprise  
90 Self starter?  
91 Around the corner  
94 "Martha the Mouth"  
95 \_ Gatos, CA  
96 Catchall abbr.  
97 Forest father  
100 Designer Lapidus  
102 "Alice's Restaurant" star  
106 Court sport  
107 Leave out  
108 Is for two  
109 Sapporo spy  
110 "Time's Arrow" author  
114 Table extender  
115 " \_ Need" ('67 song)  
116 Pedigreed pooch  
118 Vex  
120 Geraldine  
Chaplin's mom  
121 Mr. Diamond  
122 Affirmative votes  
124 Hood's weapon  
125 City near Stockton  
126 Really big  
128 Bad beginning  
129 Antiquity, in antiquity  
130 Evergreen tree  
132 Linerie item  
133 The end?

Answer Page 5

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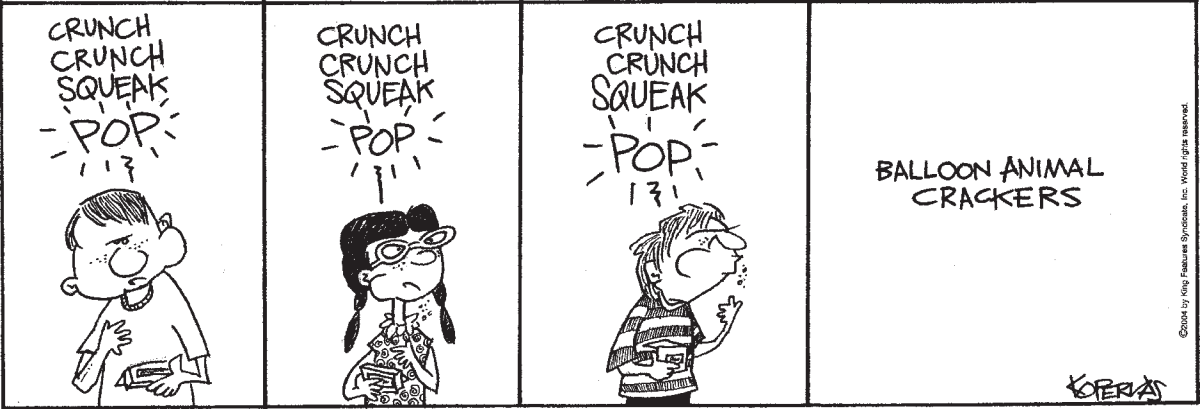
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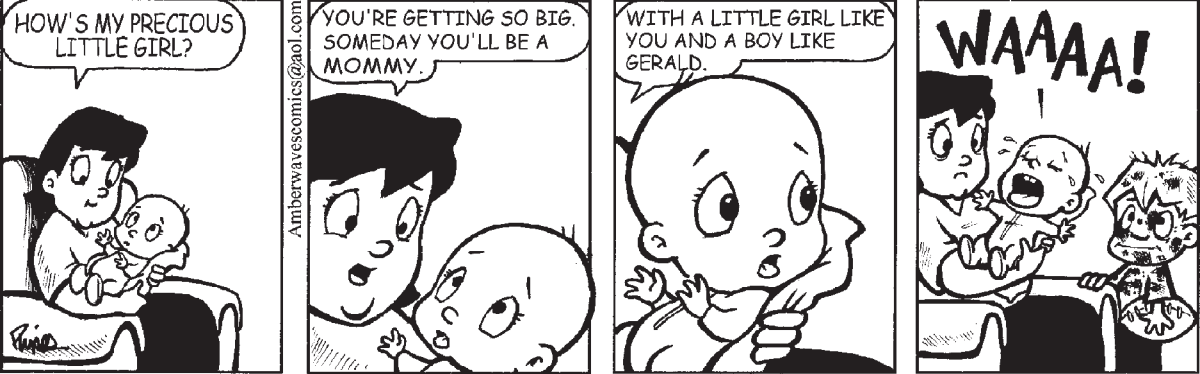
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Read it, it's good for you

By Don Flood

Recently, I noticed a Leo Tolstoy novel atop the bestseller lists, “Anna Karenina.”

What’s remarkable about this is that, to the best of my knowledge, Tolstoy has not been appearing on any of the usual talk shows to promote his book (though somebody said she saw him on Regis and Kelly, and he kept leering at Kelly like a pervert).

The reason, of course, is Oprah. She has announced she is reading “Anna Karenina” this summer, and since she apparently doesn’t like to suffer alone, she is commanding all her disciples to read it at the same time.

It’s hard to say what Oprah’s game here is. Perhaps this is the final test; if she were able to compel people to read “Anna Karenina” she would be in a position to proclaim herself Supreme Ruler of the World.

Still, it’s possible Oprah may be overreaching.

I don’t pretend to be the greatest Tolstoy scholar in the world, but my understanding is that it is a very long book, with no pictures.

What’s more, for some reason he has peopled his book with characters having very long, hard-to-pronounce Russian names.

As a public service, I looked up the book online so that I could warn people of the dangers of picking up Tolstoy’s novel as a summertime “beach book.”

What I found was quite disturbing. On the very first page of the book, Tolstoy introduces a character named Stepan Arkadyevitch Oblonsky-Stiva.

I make no claims to being a writer like Leo Tolstoy, but even I

know better than to write a book with a character named Stepan Arkadyevitch Oblonsky-Stiva.

Is this guy paid by the letter or what? Just call the guy Steve — or better yet Bob — and get on with the story.

Leo doesn’t stop there. No, he’s got a Konstantin Dmitrievitch, whom people avoid because his name is so hard to pronounce, and a Katerina Shtcherbatsky, a tragic figure who never overcomes the misfortune of having a vowel-challenged last name. (Worse, it sounds vaguely obscene when pronounced.)

And people are supposed to read this over the summer. Look, I don’t want to hurt Oprah’s feelings — especially since she has the power to have me executed — but she’s gone off the deep end with this one.

Say it with me now, “I am not going to read Anna Karena-a-a — whatever her name is — this summer.”

As with most classics, the key is to be able to pretend to have read it. After all, it’s extremely unlikely that Oprah herself will come knocking on your door in the middle of the night to quiz you on the book. (Though it is possible.)

So here’s the deal. Anna has a bad time of it with various men and, despondent over her inability to spell their names correctly, she throws herself under a train.

Oh, you might be able to glean a little more if you actually read the book, but we all know that’s not going to happen.

But don’t worry, I won’t tell Oprah.

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NOTICE TO CUSTOMER

Texas Gas Service Company, a division of ONEOK, Inc. (“Company”), hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for approximately 178,170 residential, 11,302 commercial, 68 industrial, 772 public authority, 17 municipal water pumping and 42 standard transportation customers within the incorporated areas of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, in accordance with the Company’s Statement of Intent filed with the City of El Paso, Town of Anthony, Town of Clint, Town of Horizon City, City of Socorro and Village of Vinton, Texas, on May 14, 2004. The proposed effective

date is for meters read on and after July 27, 2004.

It is anticipated that the effect of the change in rates will be to increase the revenues of the Company within the El Paso Service Area by approximately \$ 684,705 or 0.69 percent. The proposed change does not constitute a “major” change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

The proposed tariffs include increases in gas sales and transportation rates for all residential, commercial, industrial, public authority, and municipal water pumping customers. The Company has also proposed changes in the cost of gas tariff, changes to the transportation tariffs to include balancing provisions

and filed initial tariffs for an Economic Development Rate and Interim Cost Recovery and Rate Adjustment Clause in the incorporated areas of the El Paso Service Area. The effect of the change in rates, when allowed, will be to increase the revenues of the Company by approximately 0.69 percent. Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly residential bill of 45 Ccf will increase by approximately \$0.21, or 0.7 percent, the average monthly commercial bill of 279 Ccf will increase approximately \$1.00, or 0.6 percent, the average monthly public authority bill of 975 Ccf will increase approximately \$3.32 or 0.6 percent, the average monthly industrial bill of 2,926 Ccf will increase approximately \$9.60, or 0.6

percent, the average monthly municipal water pumping bill of 11,698 Ccf will increase approximately \$33.87 or 0.5 percent, and the average standard transportation bill of 34,406 Ccf will increase approximately \$96.01 or 3.1%.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent is available for inspection in the municipalities’ offices and in the Company’s business office located at 4600 Pollard St., El Paso, Texas 79930.

**TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY**

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Invitation to Respond**

Sealed CSP/proposals for providing

all labor and materials for the construction of a NEW Pre-K to 8th School, Rich Been Blvd., will be received at Socorro Independent School District, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until 2 p.m. local time, July 29, 2004.

Submittals shall be addressed to Socorro Independent School District, all proposals must be sealed and clearly marked as follows:

New Pre-K to 8th School: (Package No: \_\_\_\_\_)

**2.003** - Paving;

**2.135** - Chain Link Fence;

**2.140** - Landscaping; 2.166 - Play Court Surfacing;

**3.001** - Cast in Place Concrete;

**4.001** - Masonry;

**5.105** - Fabrication and Installation of Structural and Miscellaneous Steel;

**6.100** - Rough Carpentry;

**6.501** - Millwork;

**7.100** - Roofing;

**7.920** - Caulking and Sealants;

**8.111** - Doors and Hardware;

**8.361** - Rolling Door and Counter Shutter;

**8.920** - Glass and Glazing;

**9.130** - Acoustical Ceilings and Acoustical Wall Panels;

**9.330** - Metal Studs, Drywall, Paint and EIFS;

**9.700** - Flooring and Ceramic Tile;

**10.001** - Specialties;

**11.050** - Library Shelving and Furniture;

**11.400** - Food Service Equipment;

**11.501** - Athletic Equipment;

**12.345** - Lab Equipment; 12.760 - Telescoping Stands;

**15.001** - Mechanical;

**16.001** - Electrical; 17.000 - Special Systems.

Bidders may obtain bid documents by contacting Baner General Contractors, Inc. Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained beginning Wednesday, July 07, 2004:

**Baner General Contractors, Inc.**

**6040 Luckett Ct.**

**El Paso, TX 79913**

**Attn: John Panahi**

**Phone: 915-584-0404**

A pre-bid meeting will be held Wednesday, July 21, 2004 at 10 a.m. at the Socorro ISD Operational Services Complex located at 201 Tanton Road, El Paso, Texas.

Bid deposit is refundable \$150 per set in the form of a cashier’s check or certified check payable to Socorro In-

dependent School District.

Proposals will be received at the Business Services Department, 12300 Eastlake Drive until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

WTCC-7/01/04

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Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

*Q: I have been receiving Social Security disability benefits for just under two years because of a severe back injury and other ailments. Can I use my Social Security checks to buy a wheelchair?*

A: You can spend your disability benefits in any way you deem appropriate. But you will qualify for Medicare coverage once you have received disability benefit payments for two years, so you might want to wait until then because part of the cost of

a wheelchair might be covered by Medicare. To learn more about Medicare coverage, visit its website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

*Q: I am 71 years old and have just been offered a job that will pay me about \$40,000 per year. If I take it, will my Social Security benefits stop or be reduced?*

A: No. There is an “earnings test,” but it only applies to people under their full retirement age. Once you

are over that age there is no restriction on the amount of money you can earn and still qualify for full Social Security benefits.

*Q: I get Social Security retirement benefits and a friend at our local senior center told me I might be due some supplemental Social Security benefits. What is that all about?*

A: Your friend was probably referring to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. SSI is not a Social Security benefit. It is a needs-based program intended to supplement any income you have, up to certain limits that

depend on your living arrangements and the state in which you live.

*Q: When I divorced my husband 20 years ago, I was not even thinking about Social Security. But now that I am nearing 60 years of age and beginning to think about retiring, I want to know about all of my Social Security options. Can I get Social Security spouse's benefits based on my ex-husband's work? We were married for 15 years, and I never remarried. He is 63 and I think he has remarried.*

A: A few months before you are ready to retire, you should file for

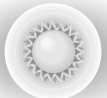







your Social Security retirement benefits. At that time, we will check your ex-husband's record to find out if you are due any additional benefits based on his earnings record. And it does not matter if he has remarried. If his current wife is also due benefits, you both will get the full benefits due.

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

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Hazy sunshine; breezy at times late in the day.	Partly cloudy.	Another breezy afternoon with partial sunshine.	Some sun with a thunderstorm possible.	Clouds and sun, t-storms possible in the p.m.	Clouds and sunshine.	Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
▲ 100°	▼ 70°	▲ 96° ▼ 71°	▲ 98° ▼ 70°	▲ 92° ▼ 70°	▲ 94° ▼ 70°	▲ 96° ▼ 70°	▲ 96° ▼ 69°

UV INDEX

Statistics for noon.

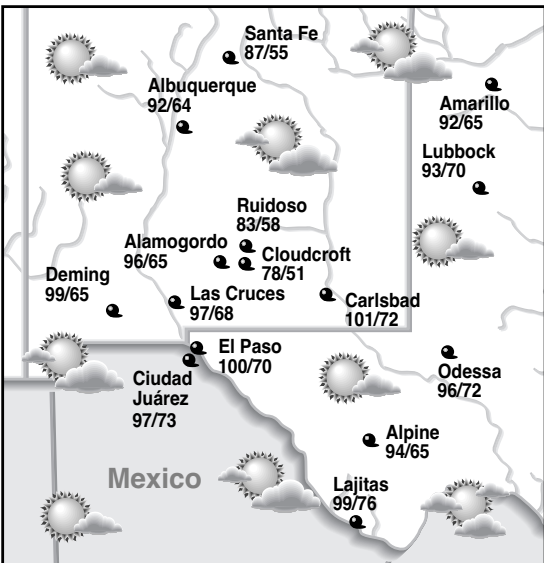
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	9	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	8	High
Monday	9	Very High
Tuesday	9	Very High
Wednesday	9	Very High

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	98	70
Canutillo	98	72
Clint	97	72
E. Montana	99	72
Fabens	97	72
Horizon	98	73
San Elizario	94	70
Socorro	98	71
Tornillo	97	72
Vinton	98	71

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	92/64/s	87/65/t	90/65/t	88/66/pc	90/67/pc
Atlanta	88/70/t	90/70/pc	92/72/s	92/72/pc	90/72/pc
Atlantic City	82/67/t	85/65/s	86/65/s	88/68/s	87/67/t
Austin/San Antonio	95/72/pc	94/72/pc	93/72/t	93/72/t	94/70/sh
Baltimore	88/70/t	86/64/s	90/66/s	90/70/s	89/68/t
Boston	74/64/t	82/64/sh	82/66/s	84/68/s	83/68/t
Chicago	76/58/s	84/64/s	88/68/pc	88/68/t	85/67/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	95/76/pc	96/75/pc	95/75/pc	95/75/pc	96/73/pc
Denver	90/58/t	80/58/t	86/58/t	87/60/pc	88/63/pc
Flagstaff	76/48/pc	76/46/pc	78/48/pc	80/48/s	81/52/s
Houston	94/76/t	92/76/t	90/76/t	92/76/t	92/76/t
Kansas City	85/70/t	91/71/t	90/70/t	90/70/t	91/68/t
Las Vegas	100/78/s	100/76/s	100/78/s	101/78/s	101/80/s
Miami	92/78/t	90/78/t	90/78/t	90/78/t	90/76/t
Minneapolis	79/67/pc	85/67/t	83/66/t	83/66/pc	85/68/s
New Orleans	90/75/t	90/75/t	92/75/t	92/76/pc	91/75/t
New York City	82/68/t	85/66/s	86/70/s	90/71/s	86/72/t
Philadelphia	88/72/t	86/68/s	90/70/s	92/72/s	89/72/t
Phoenix	102/80/s	104/81/s	106/83/s	104/83/s	106/83/s
Portland	72/56/sh	76/60/pc	78/60/s	80/59/pc	78/56/c
San Francisco	70/54/pc	70/56/pc	70/56/pc	68/55/s	70/54/s
Seattle	68/56/sh	74/56/pc	74/56/pc	75/55/pc	74/56/pc
Tucson	100/70/s	98/68/pc	100/70/pc	100/70/pc	100/72/pc
Washington, DC	90/72/t	88/68/s	92/70/s	90/72/s	89/72/t

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

AGRICULTURE

Moisture will gradually increase across the area from Thursday into the weekend. Thunderstorms will become more likely as moisture increases, with the best chance for thunderstorms on Saturday or Sunday. There will be little change in the weather pattern into the start of next week with a mix of clouds and sun each day.

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