



NEWSBRIEFS

Work help

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the state's 28 local workforce development boards is celebrating the first anniversary of the launch of WorkInTexas.com, the state's comprehensive online employment resource. WorkInTexas.com is a real-time site designed to match employers of all sizes and types with qualified candidates. More than 204,000 new hires have been recorded since the launch, and nearly 25 percent of Texas' 400,000 employers are registered with the site. "In its first year, WorkInTexas.com exceeded our expectations and goals, and has proven to be an invaluable tool for all Texans," said Diane Rath, TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing the Public. It includes a free, comprehensive employment resource providing access to hundreds of thousands of entry to executive-level job postings. Job seekers can access résumé-writing tools, career-planning resources, and job skill assessment tests. Live assistance is given at every step from local workforce professionals and privacy is ensured through advanced encryption tools. WorkInTexas.com is available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and is accessible from any computer with Internet connection. For information call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

Auto fatality

A one-car accident on Ascencion on Thursday, June 16 about 7 p.m. resulted in the death of the driver, Barbara Jean Tapley, 21 of El Paso. According to an El Paso County Sheriff's Office spokesman, Tapley was driving a 2002 silver Honda Civic, two door, at a high rate of speed south on Ascencion Dr. when she failed to negotiate a curve and lost control of the vehicle. It crossed over the northbound lane and traveled more than 350 feet before hitting a large cactus and coming to rest upside down in the desert, the EPSO reported. Tapley was pinned in the car and died at the scene. Three passengers escaped with non-life threatening injuries: Antonio Torres, 16, and Lisa Medrano, 21, were transported to William Beaumont Army Medical Center. Arturo Baeza, 16, was transported to R.E. Thomason General Hospital. Everyone was wearing a seatbelt. Speed and alcohol are listed as contributing factors, according to the EPSO spokesman. The speed limit at the site of the accident is posted at 45 mph, however, it is estimated the vehicle may have been traveling near 90 mph at the time of the accident. The road is a paved two-lane roadway that connects Horizon City with Montana Vista. This is the twelfth fatality of the year reported by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office compared to three at this time last year.

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Nothing lasts as long as a box of cereal you don't like.

— Quips & Quotes

Concern over Emerald Springs Golf Course brings out citizens

Walter Miller elected Mayor Pro-Tem

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — Newly-elected Horizon City Mayor Ray Morales and the new city council members conducted their first official regularly scheduled council meeting on June 14, 2005. Their first meeting was not without controversy.

Several concerned citizens were present at the meeting to voice their concern because Emerald Springs Golf Course is up for sale and the future of the property continuing as a golf course in jeopardy. Some said they had heard rumors that the golf course was being re-zoned to residential, allowing the new owner to build homes on the land.

Several citizens who voiced their concerns mentioned the importance of the golf course being of great value to builders as a selling point to future homeowners. It also serves as a

green belt to control residential density.

Former Horizon City Mayors Walt Lee and Lillard Thompson suggested that council seek legal ways to protect the golf course by zoning it as S-1 (parks and open area).

Mayor Morales expressed his concern and said this issue was a priority for him and the rest of council. As of that afternoon, the golf course had not been sold and there was no action on zoning the golf course. He assured the audience that council would be diligent in getting the golf course zoned to protect property owners around the golf course.

In other business, council voted unanimously to elect Councilman Walter Miller as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Miller abstained from voting, but accepted the position.

Police Chief Antonio Aguilar introduced to council the second team of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This team consists of 18 members who went

through 16 hours of extensive training at the El Paso Fire Dept. Academy. The training included life-saving techniques and dealing with terrorism-related issues such as how to evacuate people, injured or trapped, from dangerous areas. The CERT members were presented with a certificate.

Council also heard discussion from Chief Aguilar regarding the Citizens Police Academy. This Academy was approved on Oct. 8, 2002 and he is currently accepting applications from citizens interested in joining the program. This is a community relations program of the Horizon City Police Department with the primary objective to promote positive interaction between the Horizon City Police Department and the citizens it serves. Its concept is simple: better understanding through education. Training will be held in the evening and will be mainly classroom training conducted by some of Horizon City's Police officers and other outside entities.



Ray Morales

Socorro ISD finds five new technology pilots at Bill Sybert School

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Bill Sybert School Principal Sherry Eichorn is losing five good teachers to the same source. And although she is sad to see them go, she says she knows they will be able to do more for children in their new assignments.

Laura Pon, Debra Saucedo, Diana Aguilar, Daphne Hansen and Rachel Ocegueda all are becoming campus tech pilots for various schools in the Socorro Independent School District.

A Socorro ISD tech pilot works with teachers to integrate all forms of technology into the curriculum.

"We have an understanding of the curriculum," Pon says. "So the children will be able to have success with technology."

In the past, only certain campuses had tech pilots. But starting in the 2005-06 school year, every campus in Socorro ISD will have a tech pilot on site.

"Five of those new tech pilot positions are being filled by our teachers," says Claudia Ornelas, tech pilot at Bill Sybert School. "That makes us very proud."

But the teachers give credit to Eichorn for insisting that all school-related correspondence be processed in an online fashion.

"Everybody I interview to come work here, they know we are doing lesson plans and grade books online," Eichorn said. "The students of these teachers have no fear of technology. I'm so proud of all of them."

At least three years of experience is required before a teacher may be considered for a tech pilot position.

"You have to be able

See PILOTS, Page 5



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

THE WIND UNDER TECHNO WINGS — Laura Pon, Debra Saucedo, Diana Aguilar, Daphne Hansen and Rachel Ocegueda are becoming campus tech pilots for various schools in Socorro ISD.

Socorro council passes fireworks ordinance, looks at City Rep. Varela's absences

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — In a series of actions June 2 and June 16 the Socorro City Council finalized an ordinance which regulates the permitting, licensing and insuring of fireworks sales within 5,000 feet of the municipal limits of Socorro, reversing a long-time policy of prohibiting sales of fireworks inside its city limits.

Council held a public hearing on this issue during the regularly scheduled council meeting on June 16, and there was little input, except former City Rep. Gloria Rodriguez voiced her opposition to the sale of fireworks within

the city limits.

She said fireworks vendors will not lose any money by having them sell outside of the city limits. City Rep. Gary Gandara, however, said the justification for allowing the vendors inside the city limits is so that Socorro can make money on licensing fees and sales tax.

The council approved the second reading of the ordinance unanimously and will allow fireworks sales within the city limits, but only in the specified area adjacent to Horizon Blvd., between Thunder Road and I-10, and along Gateway East within Socorro's municipal limits.

Council also accepted a letter of resignation from City Rep. Luis Varela from his position as Socorro's Mayor Pro-Tem. The issue was

included in the consent agenda portion of the meeting which dispenses with discussion. Varela was not in attendance at the meeting and there was no discussion or reason given for his resignation.

The council subsequently voted to elect City Rep. Jesus Gandara as the new Mayor Pro Tem.

Also in the consent agenda was an item to excuse absent council members. Jesus Gandara voiced his concern about Varela's frequent council meeting absences. He made a motion to delete the item from consent agenda and asked council not to excuse Varela. He said he would like for records to be kept of Varela's absences.

The motion was seconded and passed.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Quality pet care

Just when you thought it had all been figured out, you find out they don't know diddly. Projectionists, that is. The folks that do all kinds of research on trends in our culture and then come back and tell us where we're headed as an American society — what our homes will look like, what kind of jobs our kids will be doing, what kinds of cars we'll be driving and what kind of fuel they will use, things like that.

Their research includes other, more personal, aspects of our culture. Like how big a role religion will play in our lives, how many kids are likely to be in a household, if they will be raised by one parent or two, and if those two parents are likely to be of the same sex. A real biggie on the research radar has always been how much time we will have to spend working to pay for living.

For years now, the picture has been one of techno-leisure. Gadgets that pay your bills automatically. Lights that come on when you walk into the room because they recognize you. A kitchen that prepares dinner. A robot that feeds the family pets after taking them for a walk, giving them a bath and a good scratch, and seeing to their next veterinarian appointment.

Okay, so maybe I'm stretching it a little on the pet thing. Still, it's been a pretty rosy picture because included was a portraiture of ourselves stretched out on a lawn chair under a shade tree or soaking in a hot bath while all this was being done for us. Americans were supposed to become inundated with leisure time.

Think again.

Projectionists are still predicting that our future will include extraordinary conveniences but don't count

on taking it easy. There have been a few revisions.

Just like it has always been, and will always be, we're going to have to work for what we get.

Now, don't expect these guys to put it bluntly. Good old political correctness still reigns. But the bottom line is this: Forty two percent of executives recently polled by OfficeTeam — a research study group which keeps a constant finger on the pulse of business — said that their employees would be working more hours in the next 15 to 20 years.

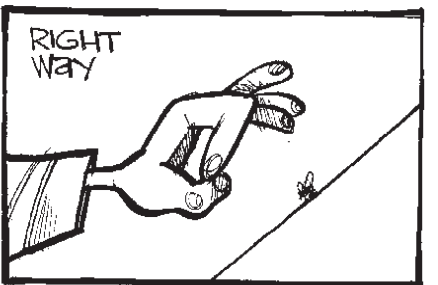
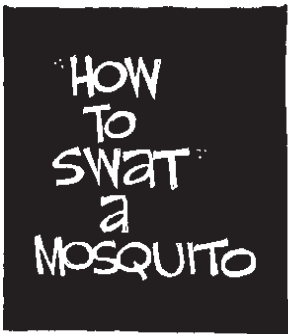
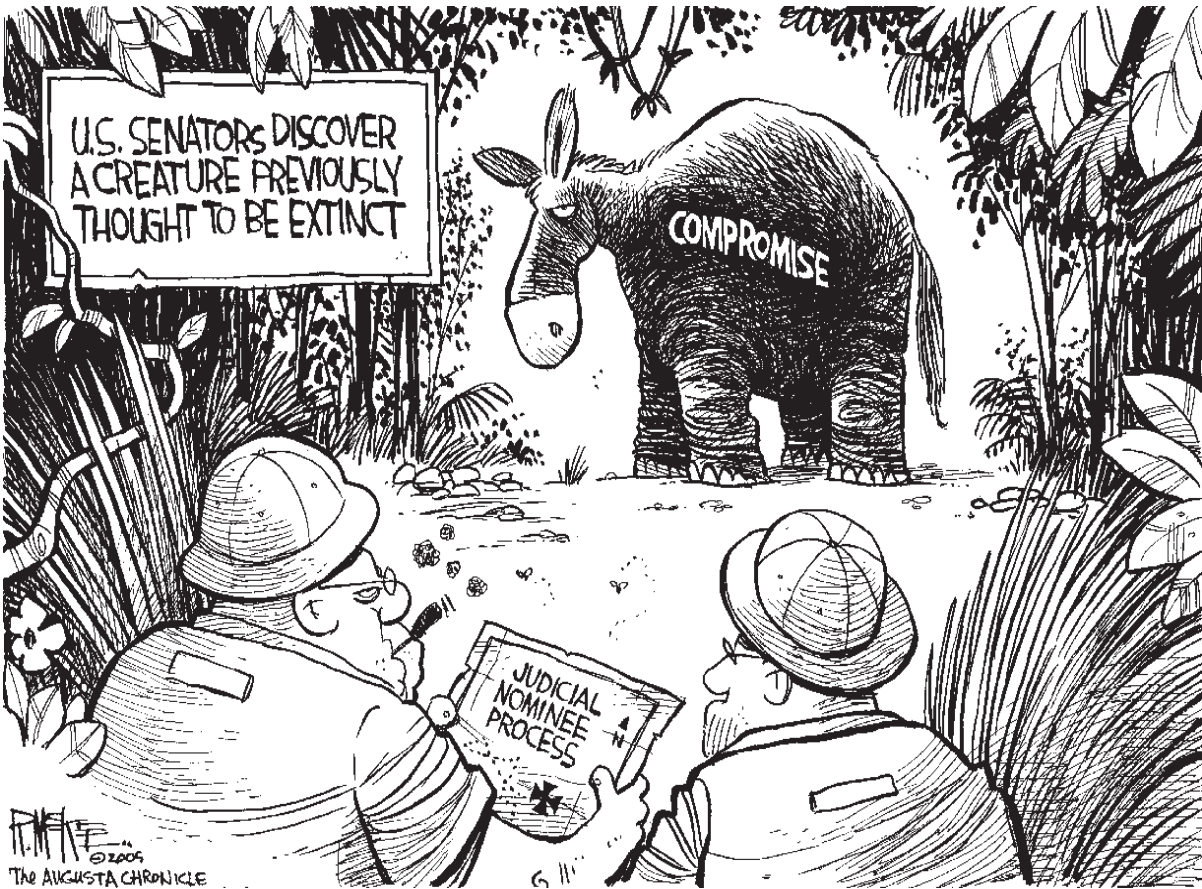
The good news, they say, is that we will have the flexibility to do it anywhere we are. Technology will continue to reshape the workplace as to where and how business is done, and "flexibility and adaptability" will be sought-after characteristics in employees. Companies and employees will take a new view on the balance between work and life.

In other words, your employer is going to own you 24/7 instead of 8/5.

Wireless and other mobile technology will allow you to keep working no matter where you are — 86 percent of executives said workers will be expected to stay in close contact with the office at all times, even while on vacation.

Meanwhile, we'll be expected to establish interpersonal working relationships with people we hardly ever see face-to-face, engage in continual ongoing education to stay on top of the newest and most efficient technical tools, while effectively analyzing information, exercising good judgment, adapting to the needs and work styles of others, establishing rapport and facilitating team building, and developing negotiating skills that can

See CARE, Page 6



WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$35. Delivery via 1st class mail.

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Homesteader News, Inc.
Est. 1973

Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Special session will focus on public school finance

Hola, mi gente, I'm reporting to you once again on the issue which is truly testing our mettle — public school finance. This week, Gov. Rick Perry called a special session, with the intent to come up with a school finance and property tax relief plan.

If you recall, the Robin Hood plan, which has been taking money from property-rich school districts and dispersing it into property-poor school districts, was outlawed by a judge. Should the House and the Senate fail to come to a consensus, our Texas courts will step into the battle, and they might come up with a plan. Therefore, it behooves us to design a plan that will be fair and equitable to all parties involved.

Our main concern, right now, is to ensure that our educational system does not suffer in the least. We need to provide the necessary funding so that our students receive an equitable education. Gov. Perry assures us that he has a workable plan, which has been filed this special session, under House Bill 1 and House Bill 2.

Perry's plan features a package of education improvements that legislative leaders have already agreed to — such as incentive pay for teachers — and a small reduction in school property taxes of about 25 cents per \$100 valuation. This proposal would cost more than \$7 billion over two years. The tax rate, now set at \$1.50 would be trimmed even more in coming years.

To pay for the property tax cuts, the governor will recommend that we increase the sales tax from 6.25 percent to 6.95 percent, expanding the sales tax to auto repairs and cosmetic surgery. His plan would also close loop holes in the business franchise tax.

Any way we look at it, it is not an easy thing to do. At the same time, however, we must make sure that whatever plan we finally adopt meets the needs of children, educators, and the taxpayer.

We all realize that it is our responsibility to fix the system and we are going to strive to reach an equitable solution. Should you have any questions and/or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at Chente.quintanilla@house.state.tx.us. Your friend and public servant, Chente for la gente.

Research issues back to 8/2001

www.wtccourier.com



Hurrah to the Army

In 1962, General Douglas MacArthur made his farewell address to the cadets of the United States Military Academy. He told the future Army officers: “Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory and that if we fail, the Nation will be destroyed.” This week Congress joined America in wishing the United States Army a happy 230th birthday. I was proud to vote for a resolution that commemorates the Army’s courage, valor and commitment to the protection of our great nation and its citizens.

The Army was born on June 14, 1775, a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed. Why is it older than America? Because before our Founding Fathers could agree on the Declaration of Independence, it knew that a professional army was needed to defend our rights.

Since 1775 our Army has been the protector of our independence. The men and women of the U.S. Army have fought bravely in every war America has ever found herself engaged in. For over two centuries, the U.S. Army has seen the recruitment of over 30 million men and women. Sadly, it has also had to bear the loss of almost one million soldiers who died protecting our freedom. The U.S. Army is not the largest army in the world, but without a doubt it is the best army this world has ever known.

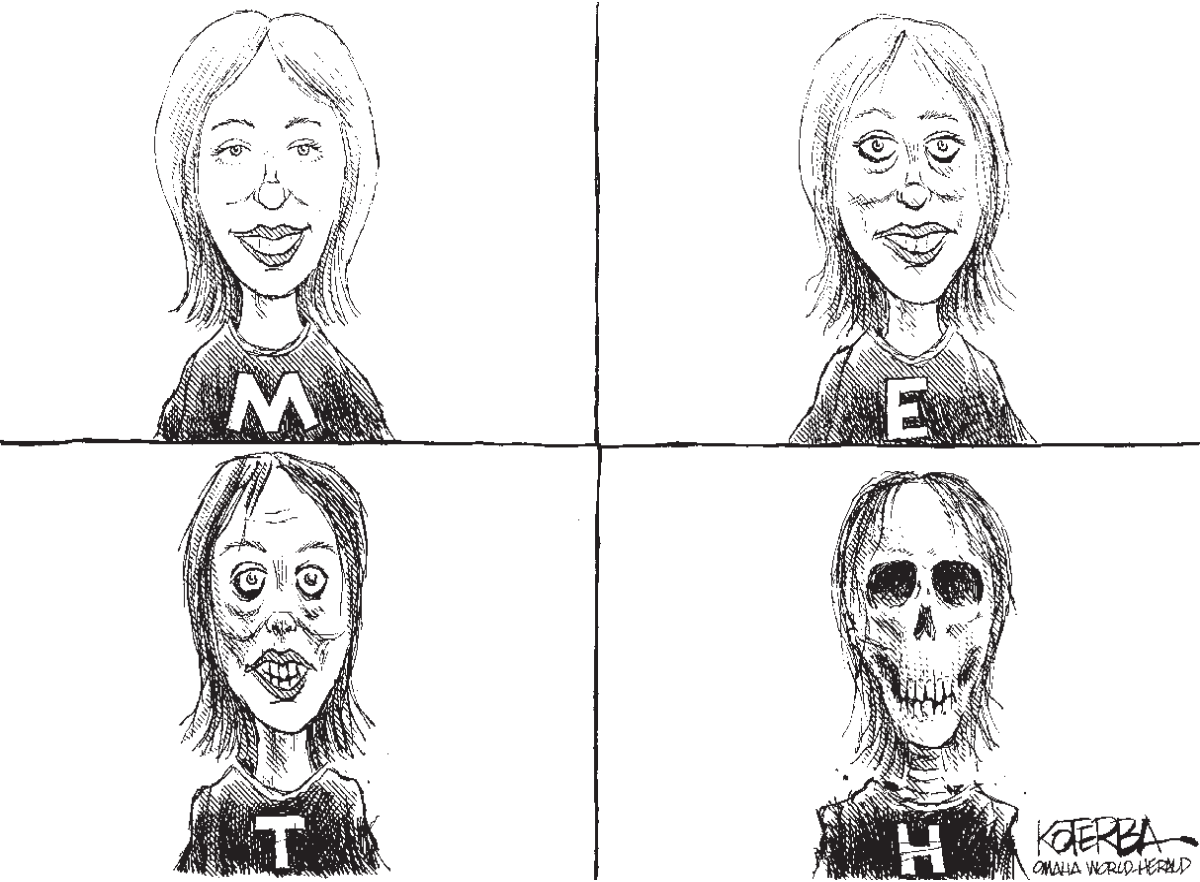
Our Army has a proud history. It won America’s independence in an eight year struggle with Great Britain. It then preserved our Union through a four year battle that saw brother fight brother. It has repeatedly defended the United States against enemies abroad. Our Army defeated Nazi totalitarianism, Japanese imperialism and world communism — and it did not stop there. The U.S. Army can draw great satisfaction from knowing that when the nation was in need, it answered the call.

Recently, the United States House of Representatives named the American soldier Person of the Century. This is an honor that is unequivocally deserved. Had it not been for the courageous brave souls who fought and died, we may not enjoy the freedom and independence so many take for granted. I join you all in thanking those brave men and women for their service and commitment to our freedom. Happy Birthday to our United States Army!



Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla



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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Investigating detainee abuse

As a nation, we are haunted by photos first publicized last year documenting the senseless abuse inflicted upon Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers and contractors. We are equally troubled by allegations of abuse at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. How could Americans treat others in such a manner? Who is ultimately responsible for these actions? How do we ensure this never happens again? These are questions many if not all of us asked, and as a nation, we must ensure that they are fully answered.

Like many of you, I learned of the abuse through the newspapers and on TV. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Intelligence Committee — committees whose very mission includes oversight of military and intelligence operations — I was disappointed that my colleagues and I learned about this not from the Department of Defense (DoD), but through the media, even though the military knew of these abuses months before the newspapers ran the story.

The media reported the story in early May 2004; however, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report dated February 2004 — which was provided to DoD — documented the abuse. The ICRC is an independent organization whose mission is mandated in international law to protect the lives and dignity of prisoners of war and monitor compliance with the Geneva Convention. The ICRC has the right to visit prisoners and provides reports on abuse to governments confidentially. The ICRC shared the 2004 report exclusively with the DoD; however, DoD did not share the troubling information contained in this report with Congress.

Since learning of these abuses last May, I have been calling for Congressional oversight hearings and a Department of Justice investigation of how this took place at Abu Ghraib — and to look both up and down the chain of command. It is not only frustrating that we have not undertaken a comprehensive review, but it undermines what we are trying to achieve in Iraq and places American servicemen and women and contractors in Iraq in even more danger.

Recently, I joined my colleagues in introducing legislation in the House of Representatives that would require the Secretary of Defense to share information DoD receives from the ICRC with the House Armed Services Committee and the House International Relations Committee. As with all other sensitive documents these committees receive, and pursuant to the ICRC’s existing agreement, all reports would be treated confidentially.

I have also joined many of my colleagues in calling for an independent bipartisan commission to investigate detainee abuse. The U.S. government has undertaken investigations that have resulted in reports — Taguba, Schlesinger, Church and Fay to name a few — but an outside commission, based on the September 11 Commission, would tell the world that we denounce the actions at Abu Ghraib and we take the allegations at Guantánamo



True Texas by Roger T. Moore, A 300 carat Topaz(the official State Gem) was found in Mason County.

seriously. At a time when we are working hard to win the hearts and minds of the citizens of the Middle East, our lack of willingness to carry out an independent investigation will continue to undermine our efforts there.

Information-sharing between the different branches of government and an open, transparent, independent investigation will not only provide us with the tools to ensure abuses such as these never happen again, it will restore our credibility as the world-wide leader in human rights and the rule of law.

Write stuff

Dear Editor:

To my esteemed Horizon City constituency, I would like to mention that having served as your Alderman for the past two years has indeed, been a great honor. Altogether, it has been a profound learning, time involved, challenging, and captivating experience. Note that my every aim has always been to serve as an objective, impartial, and unbiased listener while holding the best interest of Horizon City residents in mind.

To this day, I still hold Horizon City to be the best jewel of a town amongst El Paso and all the outlying areas. Crime is still at an all time low, life is pretty serene and quiet, and we are soon to enjoy newly paved roads, to boot.

We ended the fiscal year with a surplus of approx. \$120,000 (un-appropriated funds) and managed this after hiring important necessary personnel for our police department and administrations staff. Of great significance were revisions and updates to many of our residential ordinances. In executing these measures, we added strong sharp teeth to our ordinances on residential developments to guard against unjust fees to the Town's taxpayers from developers and builders alike. These are fees that can go well into the millions for ma-

jor arterials, roadways, and other projects on new developments. Altogether, a job well done.

At any rate, regarding our recent elections, I would like to extend a very special thanks to my lovely wife Nancy Reyes, and daughters Janelle and Jacqueline Reyes, for their tireless and much appreciated support in my campaign. I would also like to thank the Horizon Citizens Community Support Group for rising to the cause in my support and spearheading my campaign. Your financial support with the posted signs, creation of advertisements, and miles of leg-work in distributing flyers, goes beyond words in expressing my heart felt gratitude. Thank you, for your dedication, hard work and kind generous support.

To the Horizon City Hall administrators, staff, legal department and police department personnel, thank you for your clarification, resourcefulness, and professionalism. And last but not least, to my relatives and friends who provided a helping hand when the need arose at the polls and to my many supporters, as well, I extend to you a great big thank you and God Bless.

Robert G. Reyes
Former Alderman
Horizon City

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View from here By Hector V. Barreto

New trade opportunities are a boon to small businesses

Congress will soon begin debating about the value of expanding trade with our friends in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. From the perspective of a former small business owner, the prospect of expanding trade opportunities through the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) is encouraging.

DR-CAFTA will level the playing field for American workers, farmers and ranchers by reducing and eliminating onerous tariffs and regulations. Consider this: currently, 80% of imports enter the United States from the DR-CAFTA countries duty free. The same is not true for American exports, on which DR-CAFTA countries still levy significant tariffs. Passage of this trade pact would correct this harmful trade imbalance.

U.S. businesses expected to benefit from this immediate duty elimination include information technology products, agricultural and construction equipment, paper products, pharmaceuticals, medical and scientific equipment, high-quality cuts of beef, soybeans, cotton, wheat, along with many fruits and vegetables and processed food products.

Remaining tariffs will phase out over the next few years. Those levied on U.S. automobiles and auto parts will be eliminated in the next 5 years; consumer and industrial goods will see all residual tariffs lifted within 10 years; and tariffs on all U.S. farm products will be lifted within 20 years, and most in the next 15.

Expanding the marketplace for American goods will result in billions of dollars of growth. The DR-CAFTA market already consumes over \$4 billion in consumer and industrial goods alone, even with heavy tariffs in place. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce predicts U.S. sales to the region will increase by \$3 billion in the first year. And the American Farm Bureau forecasts that farm exports could grow by as much as \$1.5 billion annually.

There are other, more specific economic benefits to American small businesses — including a strengthening of the U.S. textile industry's ability to compete with Asia; strengthening of protections for U.S. patents, trademarks and trade secrets; ground-breaking anti-corruption measures in government contracting; and increased transparency in customs operations and dispute settlement mechanisms.

Aside from the obvious and immediate economic benefits, DR-CAFTA will advance economic development and strengthen security among our neighbors. Democracy in Central America remains precarious, but it is paramount to peace and prosperity for the citizens of those nations. By providing economic support to countries forging their future under the banner of democracy, we support their economic freedom and the democratic institutions that will lead to regional stability and increased quality of life among their people. Improving labor standards and economic growth throughout the region will be good for American small business and better for Central American and Dominican Republic workers.

Small businesses, the backbone of the American economy, create more than 37 percent of the value of U.S. exports to the DR-CAFTA region. Their stake in the outcome of this free-trade agreement is great; as it is for all Americans. Our security depends on our prosperity and that of our neighbors. The potential economic growth that creates jobs for workers and encourages political and economic stability will foster increased productivity and peace at home and abroad.

DR-CAFTA is one of the most important trade agreements in our nation's history. Congress must pass DR-CAFTA.

Hector V. Barreto is a former small business owner and the 21st Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Come and get 'em!

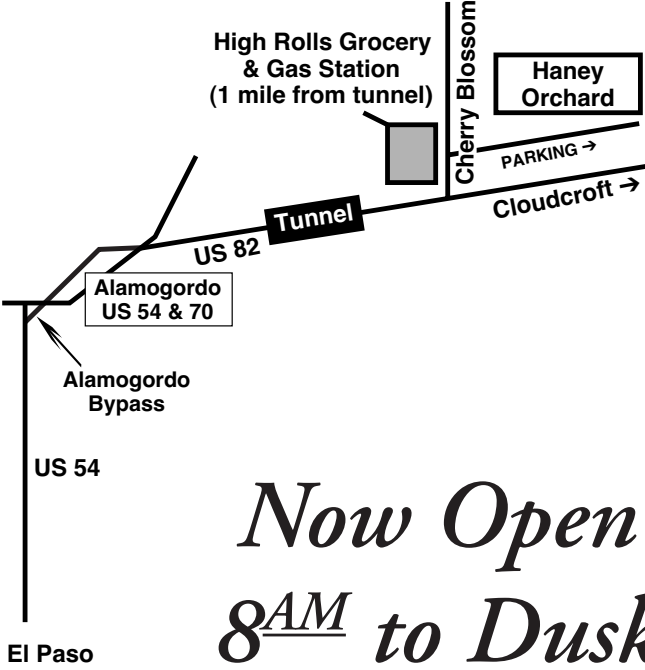
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Gov. Perry signs a number of bills affecting life in Texas

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has signed several bills passed during the Legislative session numerous issues from capital murder to the Trans Texas Corridor. Date for the various laws to become effective vary. The following are some of those laws.

Gun ownership

Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation aimed at clarifying existing firearm laws, enhancing protections for law-abiding gun owners and reducing barriers for gun ownership.

“The right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right of every law-abiding citizen of our country,” Perry said.

These bills, which become effective Sept. 1, 2005 include:

- House Bill 225 (Driver) which extends the renewal period for a concealed handgun license from four to five years without an increase in renewal fee.
- House Bill 322 (Hupp) which reduces all fees for a concealed handgun license for military members and veterans by 50 percent and lowers the age from 21 to 18 for members of the military or veterans to obtain a concealed handgun license.
- House Bill 685 (Rose) which exempts military members and veterans from taking the range portion of the concealed handgun licensing process if they had been weapons certified in the military within the past five years prior to application for the license.
- House Bill 1483 (Frost) which will expand methods by which applicants for a concealed handgun license may pay the fees to include personal check, cash, and credit card, instead of only cashiers checks and money orders.
- House Bill 823 (Keel) which clarifies the current definition of “traveling” as it relates to someone carrying a firearm. Current law is ambiguous and is interpreted differently by courts and law enforcement.
- House Bill 1038 (Isett) which reduces the fee for a four-year renewal of a canceled handgun permit for senior citizens, 60 and older, by 50 percent, to \$35.

Capital murder

Gov. Perry signed Senate Bill 60, which gives juries in capital murder cases the option of sentencing a defendant to life without the possibility of parole. While the life without parole sentence cannot be applied retroactively to those already convicted of capital murder, it will provide victims assurance that in the fu-

ture, even if appellate courts overturn death sentences, those convicted of the most heinous murders after Sept. 1, 2005 will never be released from prison.

Perry also approved another death penalty-related bill, House Bill 93, which will change the terminology used on certificates of death for executed inmates. Effective Sept. 1, 2005, the official cause of death will no longer be homicide, but judicially ordered execution. “Individuals who commit unspeakable crimes against Texas citizens and are put to death under Texas law are not victims,” Perry said. “They are criminals and the final document that bears their name should reflect this fact.”

Military issues

Gov. Perry signed several laws that affect military communities, and victims of family violence.

- Senate Bill 1479 (Shapleigh) protects members of the military from predatory payday lenders, including prohibition of lenders contacting the employer of a soldier or their spouse about payday lending debt and prohibits wage garnishment for such debts, effective Sept. 1, 2005.
- House Bill 3302/Senate Bill 1481 (Corte-Shapleigh) increases the membership of the Governor’s Military Preparedness Commission from nine to 13 and expands the revolving loan fund to communities that may be harmed by the upcoming base realignment and closure, effective Sept. 1, 2005.
- Senate Bill 1186 (Nelson) allows military service members to terminate lease agreements if they are transferred for military service and prohibits waiver of this right. The bill also extends to family violence victims who terminate leases to move away from their attackers, effective Jan. 1, 2006.
- Senate Bill 1342 (Van de Putte) expands the list of employees exempt from disqualification from unemployment benefits to include military spouses who move as a result of their spouse’s permanent change of station or a tour of duty, effective immediately.
- House Bill 2340 (Corte) expands three existing programs for defense communities: Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), the Military Value Revolving Loan Fund and The Defense Economic Readjustment Zone Program (DERZ) effective Sept. 1, 2005.

Transportation bill

Gov. Perry signed into law the

major Transportation Bill of the 79th Texas Legislature, House Bill 2702. The legislation clarifies existing law and makes new ones affecting property owners.

Perry said that Texas is taking a significant step to bring state law into accordance with his vision for the Trans Texas Corridor to move goods and people faster and safer. He said HB 2702 will add protections for private property owners, expand Texas’ ability to build needed transportation infrastructure and ensure that roads that are now toll-free will remain toll-free.

The Trans Texas Corridor (TTC) is a driving force behind the Texas transportation plan. The project allows Texas to leverage the resources of the private sector. Perry said it allows the building of roads, railways and pipelines faster and cheaper using less overall land than traditional methods of expansion. He said private investors have already agreed to pay and estimated \$7.2 billion to build the first segments of the Corridor stretching from San Antonio to Dallas without any upfront costs to taxpayers for construction.

“As the Corridor idea has moved closer to becoming a reality, I have heard the concerns expressed by some Texans about the vagueness in current law governing the Corridor,” Perry said. “HB 2702 will provide greater clarity and significant protections for property owners and ensure that they are treated fairly when the state must build new roads.”

Under existing law, landowners who participate in the Trans Texas Corridor are already offered either a lump-sum payment for their land or long-term royalty payments similar to those offered in the oil and gas industry. HB 2702 provisions include:

- If a new road cuts through a landowner’s property, the state must offer to purchase a remaining tract of land if it has little or no value to the owner.
- If the property loses value as a result of the TTC, the state must provide fair compensation for the damages, including those caused by inaccessibility problems.
- The Texas Department of Transportation must periodically re-evaluate the need for building each segment of the Corridor to ensure that construction doesn’t begin until absolutely necessary.
- When construction begins on a particular segment, the state will only

Up and away! San Elizario High School library begins to take shape



— Photos courtesy San Elizario ISD

SAN ELIZARIO — Construction crews raised the first concrete panel for the new high school library in San Elizario this week. The \$1.8 million project is financed using Infrastructure Facilities Allotment (IFA) funds granted by the state of Texas. The Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) program was initially authorized in House Bill 4 by the 75th Legislature in 1997 and became effective in September of that year. It provides assistance to school districts in making debt service payments on qualifying bonds and lease-purchase agreements. The new library will be a little more than double the size of the current library with elevated ceilings and a separate classroom for instruction and meeting space. It will also have two small conference rooms to hold meetings and study groups. The current library is about 5,000 square feet — the new library will be 11,165 square feet total indoors. A covered outdoor breezeway will connect the existing building to the new library, and a new parking lot will be out front.

— Contributed by Philip Cortez

be allowed to use property next to the Corridor for transportation-related facilities and the state is prohibited from condemning land along the TTC.

- The State will be prohibited from extracting groundwater except for incidental on-site use.
 - Commercial development in the Corridor will be limited to gas stations and convenience stores, subject to local zoning ordinances and property taxes, to limit the negative impact to local businesses.
 - TxDOT will maintain oversight of toll rates so that those who choose to drive on the Corridor can know that they will pay a fair price.
 - The bill enacts that no tax-funded highways will be converted to toll roads unless approved by local voters.
 - TxDOT will have the legal authority to address freight and passenger rail issues, such as relocation projects.
- The state is also providing \$20 million in funding to complete the Northwest Loop in the Temple area.

Pilots

From Page 1

to work with administrators, teachers and parents,” Aguilar says. “Not just students.”

Saucedo says being a tech pilot allows her to be on the “front line” of technology.

“Our superintendent is so for technology. In this new role, I can help more students and mentor teachers as well,” she says.

Hansen agrees that the district has been proactive in promoting technology in the classroom.

“We are coming up with so many wonderful technology ideas, like getting the community free web access at home,” she said. “That allows better openness between teachers and parents.”

And for Ocegueda, it’s all about the students.

“The children are the number one client,” she said. “We’re here for them.”

Briefs

From Page 1

In other news

■ Canutillo High School Band Boosters organization has set up a fireworks stand to raise funds for the CHS Band’s activities and annual band trip during the coming school year. The Fireworks Stand is located at the corner of Borderland Road and McNutt Road in the Upper Valley. The Band Booster members and other volunteers will sell fireworks from 10 a.m. until 12 midnight, through Monday, July 4.

■ In a scenario frighteningly reminiscent of an incident in the summer of 1987 in which 18 undocumented migrants suffocated in an airtight box car near Sierra Blanca, agents Border Patrol agents found 15 people locked inside a train car in the heat of the day last Thursday on a side track of the railroad along I-10 west of Deming. Agents were alerted to the problem when four people were reported walking in the heat along I-10. After picking up the group, they spotted five more near the sided train. After investigating the situation, they suspected further people were involved, and found the 15 after opening the

train car which had been locked from the outside. A total of 24 people were found with the group, without provisions, apparently abandoned by smugglers. So far this year the agents have rescued 281 migrants from train cars, vehicles and other confined spaces as well as El Paso area waterways. Thirteen died.

■ The public is invited to July’s *Cafe Quetzalcoatl*, a free monthly art, culture and music series produced by Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc., which will feature renowned poets Bobby Byrd and Ben Alire Saenz of El Paso and Amalio

Madueño of Taos, N.M. The event will be the 10th anniversary celebration of Tumblewords, one of El Paso’s best known literary and art institutions. Those wishing to share their own poetry should register before 5:30 p.m. on the day of the event, July 15, at 721 S. Ochoa. The public is encouraged to arrive early as seating is limited. Recitations begin at 6 p.m. Call 545-7190 for information.

■ The 2004 Annual Water Quality Report is available for review by the public at the Horizon Regional M.U.D. office, 1539 Pawling Drive, Horizon City. In-

formation: 852-3917

■ The nearby community of Timberon, New Mexico, is gearing up for the 22nd Annual Independence Day celebration on Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3. The event begins with a free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on July 2 and continues with a variety of events that includes a parade at 10 a.m. that day. Other activities include hiking, swimming, fishing, a golf tournament, arts and crafts sales, book sales, food, games, and live entertainment, including a dance Saturday night. For more information, contact Eva Tannehill at 505-987-2744.

Ten million reasons to let bygones be bygones

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Remember those Chicago Bulls teams that won championship after championship under the tutelage of Phil Jackson?

The Zen Master, as he is affectionately known, took individuals like Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen, and threw them together with a bunch of role players to form one of the best dynasties in sports history.

Jackson then took his show to Hollywood and won three titles with the Lakers with the likes of Shaquille O’Neal, Kobe Bryant and you guessed it, a bunch of role players.

This gave Jackson nine NBA championships and made him one of the most respected individuals in the world of sports.

But Hollywood is the world of illusion where things aren’t always what they appear to be.

Jackson coached in Los Angeles until he could coach no more and then resigned for some peace of mind. The main reason for his departure — Kobe Bryant.

Things got so bad between the genius coach and the “maybe-I’ll-pass-it-to-you-next-time” ball hog, that Jackson took the time to write one of those popular tell-all books.

In Jackson’s book, he made Bryant sound like he was one of the most notoriously selfish people on the planet.

And while there was no doubt that Jackson’s words were harsh, you had to admire the guy for having the guts to be honest. You have to respect a guy like that.

But after all that Jackson wrote and all the accusations that Jackson made and making it clear to the world that there was no way he could every coexist with Kobe Bryant, where does Jackson decide to coach? The Los Angeles Lakers.

You know, the same Los Angeles Lakers that Kobe Bryant plays for.

Talk about dropping on the credibility meter, Jackson took a nose-dive in the respect department.

How does any self-respecting human being rip another individual apart — in public — and then decide to reunite with him so quickly afterwards?

Oh, I know, \$10-million. That’s how much it cost Jackson to gather up all his principles and toss them in the garbage.

I don’t know if they’ll get along next season, but if Jackson still thinks Kobe is one of the most selfish guys on the planet, it appears they’ll at least have something in common.

Tennis anyone — anyone

Wimbledon is almost here — and who cares?

When I was growing up Wimbledon was one of those sporting events you circled on your calendar.

It was the event you got up very early to see and stayed glued to your TV set to catch every phenomenal shot, grunt and tirade.

Things were especially exciting on the men’s side of the bracket. Over the last 20-some years you had Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg, Stefan Edberg, Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, Andre Agassi, Arthur

Ashe, Guillermo Vilas, Yannick Noah and Ilie Nastase to root for or yell at.

There was passion for men’s tennis then. You talked about that grueling five-set match on Monday morning at work.

Quick question. What happened?

Does anybody care about men’s tennis anymore. Other than Agassi and Andy Roddick, can you name a male professional tennis player?

To say that the luster has gone out of the professional men’s division — at least in this country — is an understatement.

The guys at the top today are as exciting as fast food fare. Cookie-cutter tennis-playing robots, interchangeable and almost indistinguishable.

How does one relate to names like Federer, Johansson, Davydenko, Hewitt, Ancic, Safin, Nadal, Henman, Grosjean and Coria?

Can anyone give me a first name? Does anyone care?

Maybe it’s the obvious decline of men’s tennis in the United States that’s caused the lack of interest. Now that Agassi is at the end of his career, only Roddick stands as his successor and the only reason for any Americans to care at all.

Men’s tennis better be careful — look what happened to hockey.

Madden makes move

BOOM! John Madden is changing his address.

He’s leaving Monday Night Football after this year and doing his football announcing

thing for NBC on Sunday Nights.

While Madden is leaving the Monday Night telecasts, it still isn’t clear whom he’ll be working with. NBC says they won’t begin serious negotiations with anyone until after the NBA playoffs are over.

To tell you the truth, I never really felt comfortable with Madden, whom I love, on Monday night. I think the move back to Sundays is a good one for him.

The key will be whom they choose as his tag-team partner. Some of the names thrown around have been Marv Albert, Bob Costas, Joe Buck, Jim Nantz and even his current MNF partner Al Michaels.

All these guys are great in their own right, but boy, what I would give to hear Madden and Pat Summerall together again.



— Photo courtesy Texas State University

Kyle Anson

The name is Anson

Kyle Anson, who was recently drafted by the New York Yankees, was misidentified as Kyle Anderson in this photo in last week’s Courier. Anson is a 2001 graduate of Socorro High School and currently a senior at Texas State.

Care

From Page 2

produce positive results in business discussions.

Whew!

Still spouting good news, the report says: “People may put in more time, but they will do so using tools that provide more control over their schedules and enable them to better bal-

ance priorities. There will be an increasingly blurred line between work and other activities; people will need to multitask to meet all of their obligations efficiently. The good news is that emerging technological tools and educational opportunities will better enable professionals to meet these challenges.”

Translation: For working families, what little amount of personal time they actually had to find out what’s going on with the other folks living in their household will dissolve into

evening internet courses or be continually interrupted by the little electronic leash in their pocket or the satellite receiver mounted just over their left ear. The ringing phone during dinner should no longer be considered an unwelcome interruption — it’s just another day at the office extended into homework.

Projectionists may have us sacrificing our personal lives, our kids and our privacy, but so far, at least, the prognosis still looks good for our pets to get some good quality care.

Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rafael R. Ramirez is requesting the following variances from the County of El Paso Subdivision Regulations for the proposed Park Addition No. 2 Replat A Subdivision:

1. Minimum lot setback of 25 feet from front of property line; and
2. 10 feet from side property line

The proposed subdivision encompasses three-quarters (3/4) acres of land and has a legal description of Portion of Tract 4, Park Addition No. 2. The El Paso County

Commissioners’ Court will consider these variances on Monday, July 25, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the County Courthouse, 500 E. San Antonio Street, Room 303, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Anyone interested in providing comment on the proposed variances, either in support or opposition, may do so during the public comment period of the Commissioners’ Court meeting or by providing written comment to the attention of Subdivision Coordinator, El Paso Road and Bridge Department, 500 E. San Antonio Street, El Paso, Texas 79901. In order to be consid-

ered by Commissioners’ Court, the County must receive any written comments at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the Commissioners’ Court meeting. WTCC: 06/23/05, 06/30/05, 07/07/05, 07/14/05

FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids for Waste Disposal Service, Bid No. 063005, addressed to Mr. Gilbert Alarcon, Fabens Independent School District, 821 NE “G” Avenue or P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, will be received at the above address until 10 a.m., Thursday, June 30, 2005, at which time they will be publicly opened. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by calling (915) 764-2025. WTCC-06/23/05

SOCORRO

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2005

ATHLETIC SIGNAGE CSP NO. 199-0630-0637 ACCEPTED UNTIL 10:30 A.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on the Socorro Independent School District’s website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-06/23/05

RENTALS

MOBILE HOME, remodeled, 2-bdrm, one bath, \$450/month, \$500 deposit. Ideal for couple. Truck parking. 852-4282. 7/7

REAL ESTATE

- VALLEY FARM LAND
 - FREEWAY LAND
 - COMMERCIAL LAND
 - RESIDENTIAL LOTS
- Valley Homes With Pecan Trees 10604 Sparks Circle 11423 Alameda **APODACA LAND CO. 915-859-5472**

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

Tiene problemas

con el alcohol? Hay una solucion. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

“Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring” JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick Harshberger **915-852-9082**

BERT’S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
•Electric rooter service for sewers and drains
•Appliance installation
•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



WEST TEXAS COUNTY
COURIER

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

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	(STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.)
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35

Please print.Send form and payment (no cash) to:

West Texas County Courier
14200 Ashford, Ste. C
Horizon City, TX 79928

Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

www.wtccourier.com

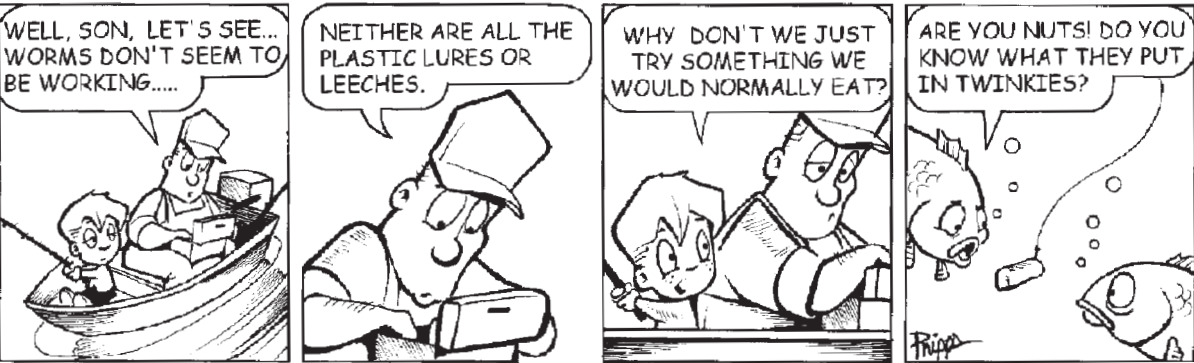


Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



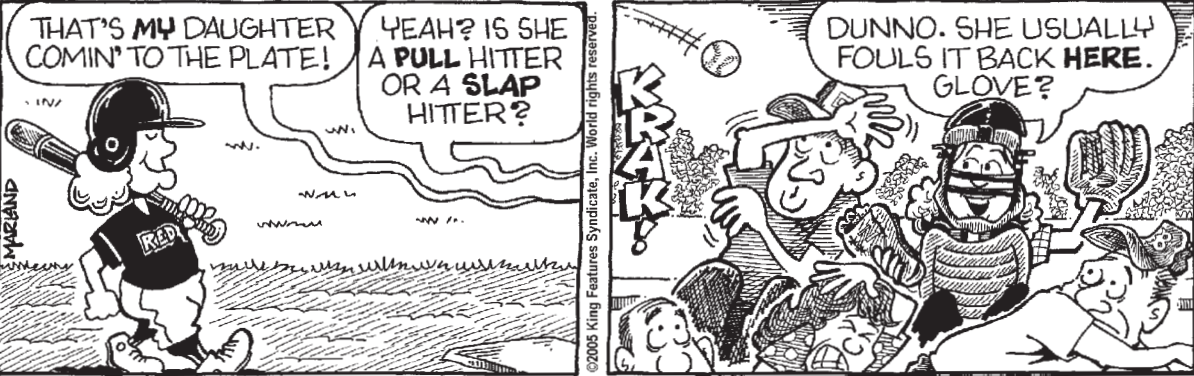
AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Enjoy coffee while you can

By Don Flood

“This stuff makes you old,” the waitress told us as she handed us our coffee.

You can imagine our excitement. Finally, after years of fruitless search, we had discovered the Fountain of Dotage — percolating, so to speak, under our nose.

“Thank you,” I wanted to exclaim. “We find that we haven’t been entirely satisfied with the sluggish rate of our aging process. Our memories remain too keen, our limbs too limber. It’s reassuring to know that the coffee from this fine establishment will help hasten us along our way.” But I didn’t, of course. Life is too short. Also, I had the perfect rejoinder. “No, it doesn’t,” I replied, with the smooth confidence of an actor dressed up like a doctor. “Coffee has antioxidants.”

Well, it turned out our smartypants waitress/medical professional didn’t even know what antioxidants are. Hah!

Come to think of it, I didn’t know either.

But at least I knew they were supposed to be good for you. I just couldn’t remember why — probably a memory lapse caused by too-few antioxidants.

Still, it was easy to imagine our waitress spreading sunshine throughout the day:

DINER: I’ll have the turkey with mash potatoes and gravy.

WAITRESS: You sure ‘bout that gravy? It’s gonna clog your arteries.

DINER: But...

WAITRESS: No “buts” about it. You’re likely to keel over before the end of my shift, so I hope you don’t mind paying when I bring the food.

And: DINER: What do you have for dessert?

WAITRESS: Trust me, you

don’t need dessert.

However, in the interest of science and expanding knowledge for my dear readers, I looked up antioxidants and found that they are, um, I’m still not sure.

But the important thing is: You need to load up on antioxidants now *before they become bad for you*.

That’s right. Go to your local diner and order the Antioxidant Special, with a heaping side of Whole Grain Glop.

Enjoy while you can the feeling that you are doing something good for your body.

Because that feeling will not last.

Consider sunscreen. A few years back, columnist Mary Schmich famously offered this sage advice to graduating seniors: Wear Sunscreen.

In fact, wearing sunscreen was such blue-chip, couldn’t-go-wrong advice back in 1997 that Schmich wrote, “If I could offer only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proven by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no more basis than my own meandering experience.”

That was then. Now, of course, the headlines shout: SUNSCREEN INCREASES CANCER RISK.

Who saw that one coming?

Mindful of Schmich’s success, I offer the following advice to today’s graduates:

- Be a borrower and a lender.
- Don’t floss.
- Don’t eat your vegetables.
- To thine own self, be false.
- And be false to everyone one else too.
- Just say yes to drugs.
- Don’t wear clean underwear.
- Drink coffee.
- Or don’t drink coffee. Either way, you’re going to get old.

(c) 2005 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- SWEET GNAW-THINGS ACROSS**

1 Pugilistic poke

4 Silenced a squeak

9 Fuel source

13 “Turandot” tenor

18 Heady quaff

19 Savanna sight

20 Lhasa _

21 Arbus apparatus

22 Rodent’s favorite Monkees tune?

24 Lost in thought

25 Nuclear

26 Brimming

27 Join up

29 Take into account

31 Hook’s mate

32 _ reaction

34 Diva Ponselle

36 Moon crawler

38 Relative of _ator

39 Rodent cheesecake?

45 Laundry problem

47 Frigga’s fellow

48 Young boxers

49 Relished a roast

51 “Taras Bulba” author

54 Emulate Pinocchio

55 Brandy cocktail

58 Protect with plastic

61 Resident

64 “Yours, Mine and _” (’68 film)

65 Keatsian creation
- 66 Redact

67 “The Bartered Bride” composer

70 Serenade accompaniment

72 TV’s “South _”

74 Road curve

75 Rodent’s educational level?

79 Dit’s cousin

82 Read quickly

83 Actress Vima

84 Peeper protectors

88 Oomph

90 Tokyo, once

91 Like some cellars

93 It may suit you

94 Closet freshener

96 Calculator features

99 Winter hazard

100 Trattoria treat

101 TV chef Martin

103 “_ Shuffle” (’77 song)

104 Seaweed product

105 Bobby’s flashlight

108 Rodent’s Olympic motto?

112 Broad st.

114 “Gotcha!”

115 Article

116 “_ Night” (’58 hit)

117 Apt rhyme for squirm

119 “L’_, c’est moi”

121 Matches

125 Inception
- 129 Cartoonist Charles

131 Writer Charles

133 Fictional rodent?

135 Rink rental

136 List ender

137 “Peer Gynt” composer

138 Psychic Geller

139 Veronica of “Hill Street Blues”

140 Surrender

141 Big revolver?

142 Sticky stuff

DOWN

1 Secure spot

2 _ mater

3 Rosary part

4 Speak freely

5 Roth _

6 Exist

7 Temptation

location

8 Earl _ Biggers

9 Living room

10 Antipollution grp.

11 “The _ Jungle” (’50 film)

12 Carry

13 Purrfect pet?

14 Grandpa McCoy

15 Rodent refreshment?

16 Pisces follower

17 Sapphire side

21 Future officer

23 “We’ve Only Just _” (’70 hit)
- 28 Hockey legend

30 Urban transport

33 Sugar amts.

35 Barbecue

37 Christmas visitors

39 Voting venue

40 Turn of phrase

41 Sib’s kid

42 On the _ vive (alert)

43 Summer coif

44 Tristan’s tootsie

46 Actress Skye

50 Take the honey and run

52 Mayberry town drunk

53 “Why don’t we?”

56 Sadistic

57 In the saddle

59 Saying

60 Cheerful

62 Bk. convenience

63 Neighbor of Thailand

68 Used the microwave

69 Digression

71 Prose piece

73 Boat bottom

76 Atlanta campus

77 Indentation

78 Mintz or Whitney

79 Johnny of “Chocolat”

80 Soap additive

81 City of rodents?

85 Architect Jones
- 86 Window dressing?

87 McCarthy’s trunkmate

89 West. alliance

92 Brace

95 Asta’s mistress

96 Snarl

97 Banned pesticide

98 London district

102 Shake up

104 Actor’s actor?

106 Spassky’s game

107 Pillbox, e.g.

109 Bit of a beach

110 Medical grp.

111 TV’s “Eight Is _”

112 About to sink

113 Screwdriver ingredient

118 Spouse

120 Composer Wilder

122 Prod

123 Binchy’s “_ Road”

124 Tend the sauce

126 Wallop

127 Architect Saarinen

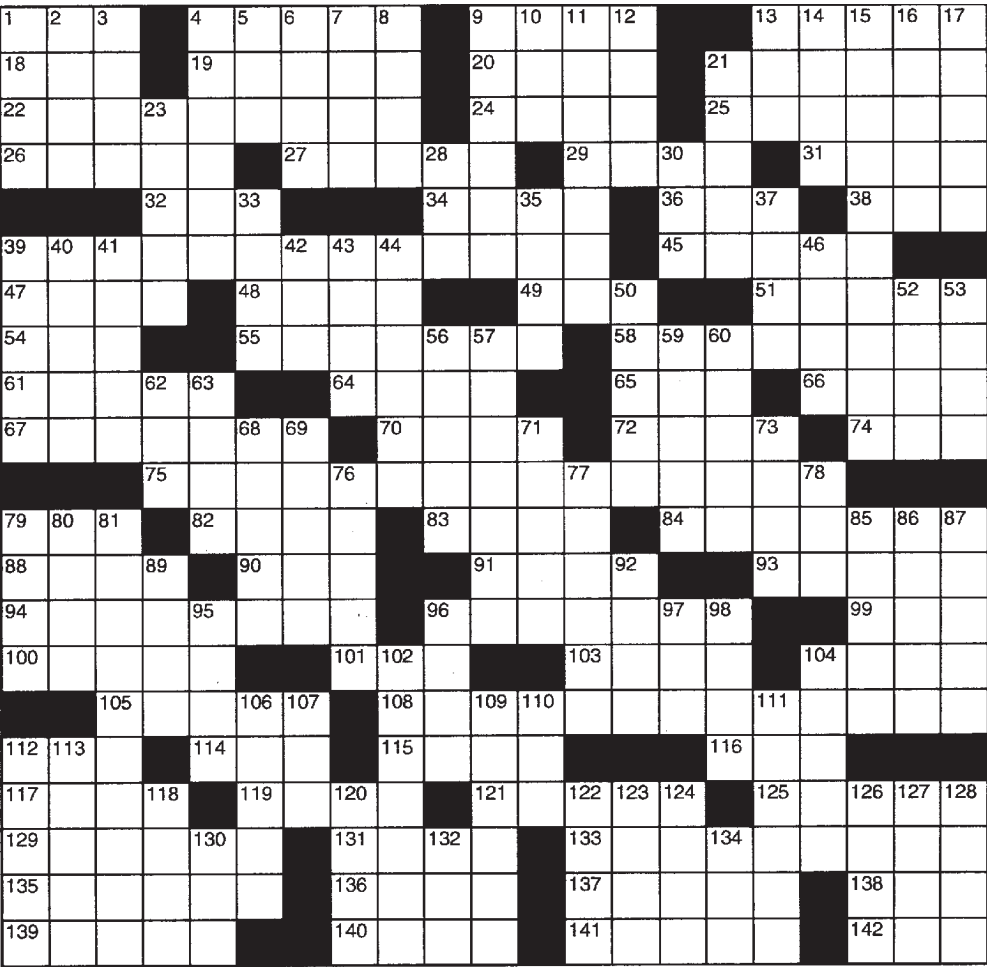
128 Small combo

130 Gibson or Tillis

132 Unbalanced

134 Wager

Answer Page 6



Horizon High JROTC hosts leadership camp in Cloudcroft

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Horizon High School JROTC in the Clint Independent School district hosted a week-long summer Junior Cadet Leadership Camp in the mountains of Cloudcroft, New Mexico May 31 through June 4, 2005.

About 155 Cadets and 23 adults from Horizon High, Clint High, Mountain View High, Bowie High,

El Paso High, Deming High, Las Cruces High, Permian High, and A.J. Moore High and University High from Waco, Texas, participated in the camp held at the Aspendale Baptist Camp grounds.

Cadets participated in field activities to develop confidence, leadership and team work. The Land Navigation exercise involved a 16 point orienteering course in which the cadets covered 17 kilometers of field navigation. The cadets learned how to form water

from a solar still and build a shelter during the survival exercise. Other exercises included completion of an obstacle course called the Odyssey and a day in the moun-

tains away from camp completing Mountain Rope activities. The camp ended with an awards ceremony on Saturday.

The camp is sponsored by the U.S.

Army and this is the fifth year Horizon High JROTC has hosted the camp in Cloudcroft. Horizon High School JROTC is instructed by Col. Ken Osmond and Sgt. Gil Kelly.



GREEN ON GREEN — Area JROTC cadets stand at attention in beautiful surroundings at Cloudcroft.



LIFE'S LITTLE OBSTACLES — Cadets learn to overcome an obstacle course during a training exercise.

— Photos courtesy Clint ISD

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My wife and I have just received an application in the mail for “extra help” in paying for Medicare prescription drugs. I am unsure if we would be eligible for this program. Is there an easy way to determine if we might qualify before we complete and mail the application?

A: Yes. Social Security has created a “Qualifier Tool” on its website at www.socialsecurity.gov. Simply by entering information about your income and things that you own, the

qualifier tool tells you whether you probably qualify or probably do not qualify for extra help with prescription drug costs. Or you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and request a copy of the work sheet, “What You Need To Complete The Application For Help With Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs.”

Q: I received a letter from Social Security in which they advise me that I do not have to apply for “extra help”

in paying for Part D Prescription Coverage premium, deductibles and coinsurance. My neighbor received a letter with an application advising them to complete the application and mail it back in the postage paid return envelope. Will I be receiving the same application?

A: Anyone on Medicare receiving an assistance type benefit such as Supplemental Security, Medicare, QMB, SLMB or QI-1, does not have to file for this “extra help.” These individuals will be automatically eligible for assistance in paying the monthly premiums, deductible and

coinsurance. Only those individual who do not qualify for assistance type benefits but are limited in income (for an individual \$14,235 or couple \$19,245 per year) and limited resources (for an individual \$10,000 or a couple \$20,000 per year), will receive an application by mail. Social Security is expecting these individuals to complete the application and returned it to social security for a formal determination. Individuals need to recognize that this process is only to determine if you qualify for “extra help”, individuals must enroll for prescription coverage effective November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006

with a prescription drug provider. A word of caution to individuals who qualify for “extra help” to purchase the Medicare Prescription Program, some Prescription Drug Providers will have a premium greater than \$35 a month, Federal Government subsidy is for only \$35 a month.

For more information visit your local Security office, see 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
Sunny to partly cloudy.	Mainly clear.	Plenty of sunshine.	A good deal of sunshine.	Sunshine and patchy clouds.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny.	Abundant sunshine.
▲ 95°	▼ 69°	▲ 97° ▼ 71°	▲ 97° ▼ 71°	▲ 95° ▼ 69°	▲ 95° ▼ 69°	▲ 97° ▼ 71°	▲ 97° ▼ 71°

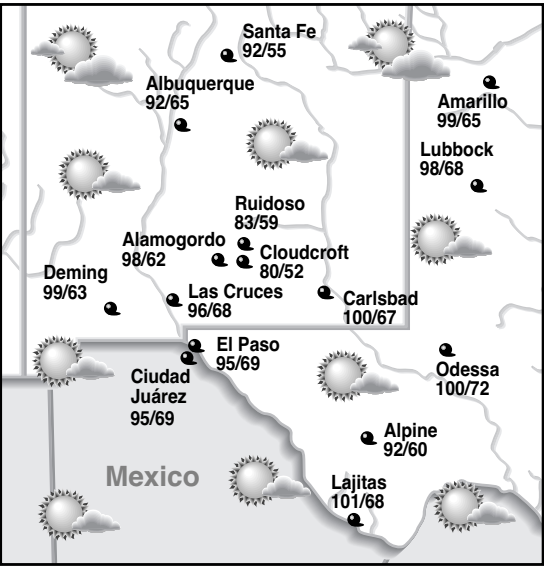
UV INDEX	Statistics for noon.
The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.	
Thursday	9.....Very High
Friday	10.....Very High
Saturday	9.....Very High
Sunday	8.....High
Monday	8.....High
Tuesday	9.....Very High
Wednesday	10.....Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP®	
The exclusive AccuWeather composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.	
Thursday	100°
Friday	89°
Saturday	89°
Sunday	92°
Monday	92°
Tuesday	97°
Wednesday	97°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	96	69
Canutillo	95	70
Clint	96	70
E. Montana	95	69
Fabens	96	70
Horizon	95	71
San Elizario	96	69
Socorro	96	69
Tornillo	96	70
Vinton	96	69

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	92/65/s	92/65/s	92/65/s	90/63/t	88/63/t
Atlanta	87/69/pc	90/70/t	90/71/pc	90/70/t	89/69/t
Atlantic City	76/58/s	80/65/s	86/67/pc	85/64/t	86/66/s
Austin/San Antonio	97/70/s	100/68/s	97/69/s	93/71/r	94/67/r
Baltimore	83/62/s	88/68/s	92/70/pc	90/68/t	87/69/pc
Boston	78/58/s	86/66/s	90/66/pc	86/63/t	84/68/pc
Chicago	88/68/pc	90/66/pc	82/62/t	84/66/pc	88/68/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	99/76/s	101/76/s	99/74/s	92/74/pc	94/72/s
Denver	88/60/t	85/58/t	88/58/t	84/57/pc	87/61/s
Flagstaff	82/48/t	80/48/s	80/46/s	81/45/s	81/48/s
Houston	96/72/s	96/74/s	94/74/s	94/74/t	94/72/t
Kansas City	97/74/s	95/72/pc	90/70/pc	86/69/c	86/69/t
Las Vegas	102/78/s	100/76/s	98/72/s	95/74/s	95/73/s
Miami	90/79/sh	90/79/t	90/79/t	87/77/t	87/77/t
Minneapolis	92/70/pc	85/60/t	80/62/pc	83/67/c	83/68/s
New Orleans	94/75/pc	91/76/pc	89/76/t	91/76/pc	92/75/pc
New York City	80/64/s	86/70/s	92/72/pc	82/68/t	85/72/pc
Philadelphia	82/62/s	89/70/s	91/72/pc	89/69/t	88/71/pc
Phoenix	109/84/s	107/82/s	105/80/s	103/79/s	104/79/s
Portland	78/54/s	74/56/pc	72/56/pc	70/54/sh	75/54/c
San Francisco	67/54/pc	66/54/pc	66/55/pc	69/54/pc	68/53/pc
Seattle	74/52/s	70/54/pc	68/54/sh	66/52/sh	70/50/r
Tucson	102/75/s	102/75/s	102/73/s	100/71/s	100/74/s
Washington, DC	80/66/s	86/70/s	90/73/pc	93/71/t	87/73/c

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

AGRICULTURE

Thursday will feature very good drying conditions under sunny to partly cloudy skies; sunshine will average 8-10 hours. Light southerly winds will increase to 7-14 mph in the afternoon as temperatures warm to the mid-90s. Plenty of sun will shine Friday and Saturday as temperatures warm to the upper 90s.

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