



NEWSBRIEFS

Canutillo ISD schedules

Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) Superintendent Dr. Pam Padilla has delayed the start of school at three campuses because of flood related issues. Canutillo High School, Canutillo Middle School, and Alderete Middle School will start classes on Monday, Aug. 14. The campuses will be open Thursday and Friday (Aug. 10 and 11) for student registration only. Canutillo and Alderete Middle Schools both suffered damage that delayed renovation work. Additionally, El Paso Water Utilities officials informed CISD that a water main break east of Interstate 10 has affected water service to Canutillo High School. Canutillo Elementary School, Jose Damian Elementary School, Bill Childress Elementary School, and Deanna Davenport Elementary School will start classes as scheduled on Thursday, Aug. 10. All CISD employees will continue to work through the week. For more information contact the campuses or the Public Information Office, at 877-7482.

Accident closure

A motor vehicle-pedestrian accident on Friday, Aug. 4, closed I-10 East for hours and put a 36-year-old San Antonio man in the hospital with life-threatening injuries. According to police reports, a 2002 white Ford F150 XLT was traveling east on Interstate 10 near the Horizon City exit when a sack fell out of the bed of the pick up. The driver pulled over to the right side shoulder and one of the three passengers in the truck walked across two lanes to the center median and then about 200 feet west to retrieve the item with his back to the oncoming traffic. As he picked up the bag he was struck by a tractor trailer. Police said the driver of a tractor trailer rig along with other vehicles slowed down and moved to the right lane to avoid the pedestrian. The injured man was taken to R.E. Thomason Hospital with serious head and upper body injuries. His condition is unknown and his name is being withheld at this time. The driver of the Freightliner tractor trailer is from Georgia. The interstate was shut down to traffic from Avenue of Americas east to the Horizon Exit from 2:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. The accident is still under investigation and no charges are being filed at this time.

In other news

■ For parents in the Socorro Independent School District, scheduling a physical or lab test for their children just got easier. A partnership between the Socorro ISD, the Montwood Wellness Center, Ronald McDonald House Charities and Children's Miracle Network is helping bring another health-care option to families in Far East El Paso. From immunizations and lab tests to minor procedures and physical exams,

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Peace is a thing you can't achieve by throwing rocks at a hornet's nest.
— Quips & Quotes

Emergency disaster training comes in handy for Canutillo ISD employees

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — Literally opening its doors, the Canutillo Independent School District was actively involved in relief efforts for victims of the severe flooding in the communities of Vinton, Westway and Canutillo itself.

At one point last week, more than 100

people forced from their homes by flood waters were being housed in Canutillo Elementary School. As of Monday, there were still 53 people — nine families — finding shelter in the school, according to Pauline Dow, associate superintendent and incident commander for the school district. She pointed out that the people have been relocated to the Lone Star section of the same

See CANUTILLO, Page 4



— Photo courtesy El Paso Sheriff

BEFORE — The main street in Canutillo was better suited for boats than automobiles last week during torrential rains that caused flooding in the community and sent some families seeking refuge provided by the school district when their homes were damaged.

Take steps to prevent fraud following a disaster

By Joyce Cavanagh
Special to the Courier

A disaster can bring out the best — and the worst — in people. If you are the victim of a disaster, you need to be aware that some people may try to take advantage of the situation. The most common complaints following a disaster relate to price gouging and home repair contractors. Identity theft is also a concern.

Price gouging

Following Hurricane Rita, the Texas Office of the Attorney General received numerous complaints of businesses charging excessive prices for essential goods and services such as rental cars, hotels and motels, building materials and groceries. Anyone who feels he or she is a victim of price gouging following a disaster should report the incident to the consumer hotline at the Office of the Attorney General (1-800-252-8011).

Home repair

After a major disaster, contractors and others often go door-to-door soliciting home repair work. While many of them are legitimate, honest business people, others are not. The dishonest ones may take your money without completing the job or use inferior materials and perform shoddy work. Before hiring a contractor, do the following:

- Get more than one estimate. Don't be forced to sign a contract right away. Ask the salesperson to leave a copy of the contract for you to review. Legitimate businesses will be happy to accommodate you. If a contractor uses high-pressure sales techniques to get you to sign right away, take your business elsewhere.
- Get everything in writing. Cost, work to be done, time schedules, guarantees, payment schedule and other concerns should be detailed. Get and keep copies of everything you sign.
- Any contract you sign for work on your homestead must contain the following warning next to the space for your signature: *"Important Notice: You and your contractor are responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of this contract. If you sign this contract and you fail to meet the terms and conditions of this contract, you may lose your legal ownership rights in your home. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND DUTIES UNDER THE LAW."*

When you sign a contract for home improvements on your homestead, the contractor can legally fix a lien on the homestead. If you sign a contract containing the language quoted above and you fail to make the payments, the company can take away your home. Therefore, it is extremely important that you understand exactly what your obligations will be under the contract and that you are confident you can meet those obligations. If you have any questions or doubts, consult an attorney before you sign the contract.

Internet hot check list names 5,000 individuals who face criminal charges

EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez has announced a new service that will allow the public to easily check the current county's hot checks warrants list. The list is available from any computer with internet access by visiting the El Paso County web page: <http://www.epcounty.com>.

The Chief of the Criminal Unit, Kent Sutton said the publication of the warrants list is the first step towards increasing hot check collections in El Paso County.

"We believe the public display of the names of individuals with warrants might serve as a deterrent for hot checks writers, and will motivate some of them to come forward to pay any outstanding amounts," Kent Sutton said.

"We also think small business owners will find the list useful in determining whether or not they should take a check from an individual."

The Hot Check Unit of the El Paso County Attorney's Office offers merchants and individuals free collection services of the face amount of the hot check and an additional fee of \$30 for the benefit of the payee; they also prosecute hot check writers in court.

It is estimated that currently hot check writers owe local businesses more than \$5 million. During the first nine months of fiscal year 2006, and thanks in part to hot check initiatives implemented along with the El Paso Police Department, the El Paso Sheriff's Department and the local Constables, the County Attorney's office has collected more than \$1.25 million in restitution and fees to local merchants.

- Ask to see the person's driver's license and/or contractor's license. Write down the license number(s), address and vehicle license plate number. Contact the Better Business Bureau in the person's home community or check online at www.bbb.org to determine whether any complaints have been made against the person. Call your local Better Business Bureau if you need assistance.
- Demand references and check them out. Never sign a contract with blanks — unacceptable terms you didn't agree to might be added later.
- Never pay a contractor in full or sign a completion certificate until the work is finished and acceptable. Beware of salespeople who say they need to be paid in full before the work is complete.

ID theft

After a disaster you will need to share your personal information to get relief benefits from government agencies or other organizations, or to get replacement identification documents. Be cautious. Identity thieves may pose as government officials or representatives of government agencies. Ask for identification. When possible, initiate the contact yourself using information posted on official Web sites or in official information centers.

As you work with contractors and others to

See FRAUD, Page 6



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

So it rained

It was raining a lot. I took the shovel and dug a trench from the back porch out to the alley so the massive amounts of water pouring from the water-soaked cloud mass wouldn't come uninvited into my dining room floor.

I was one of the lucky ones. It didn't come in.

I love the rain, having grown up in a desert climate with dependence on the life-giving water from heaven, the same as the rabbits and the birds and all the other living creatures tended by God alone.

It has been so dry for so long that rabbits from the fast-disappearing desert were foregoing natural caution and grazing on green stuff in the neighborhoods fed by man's water. Even the fly and mosquito population was somewhat depressed.

Overnight the earth began to sing

as the rain started falling. It was almost an audible sigh, an inhaling sound as the parched soil sucked up each drop as it fell, like a hot, thirsty man handed a cold container of water at a summer job site.

The grass changed color. The accumulated dust and trash washed off the trees and shrubs, giving forth a brilliance of green we haven't seen in years.

The earth rejoiced but the people didn't, and with cause, all of our own making.

There is so much sunshine and so few days of incimate weather here that we began to view the natural order of things with surprise, as an inconvenience. And when it happens with any force, it's a disaster. Because we don't depend on rain on a daily basis to feed and water our lives we fail to see the need for it. In a community like ours, we get lazy and careless and we don't make allowances for weather that we would eventually die without.

We drive into the city on dry streets, work in buildings where our computers are the tools of life, and the beep and hum of electrically-fed cash registers and workstations are the sounds of life. Our economy and livelihood does not depend on the weather cycle but on a fragile thread of electrical pulses feeding through a vulnerable network of power lines.

The quickening and steady demise of our water supply being sucked from underground remains unseen by a population that only notices water when we don't have it, or when it comes to us by means other than a water faucet.

And come in it did, in torrents, washing away cars, landscaping, dumpsters, even parts of homes, trees and appliances. It revealed the weaknesses in our roof tops, our buildings, our roadways, our sewer lines, and especially in our drainage systems.

On my own property, I suffered

little for which I am grateful. Within my immediate extended family, however, the loss was much greater, closer to home and the damage far more personal. My heart goes out to those who suffered in this way. I am so sorry about those folks in Socorro and Clint, or on the West Side of El Paso whose homes are so filled with mud they can't be salvaged.

I can't help thinking this community is a lot like the lazy grasshopper who whiled away the summer sleeping in the sun, then wondered what was happening when the cold winds of winter began blowing.

Remember that big Army Corp of Engineers study nobody talks about unless it's raining?

We've been suffering extensive damage for years in the East County, especially below the freeway, as developers continue to chop up, pave over and build houses on the fragile, shifting sands of the desert.

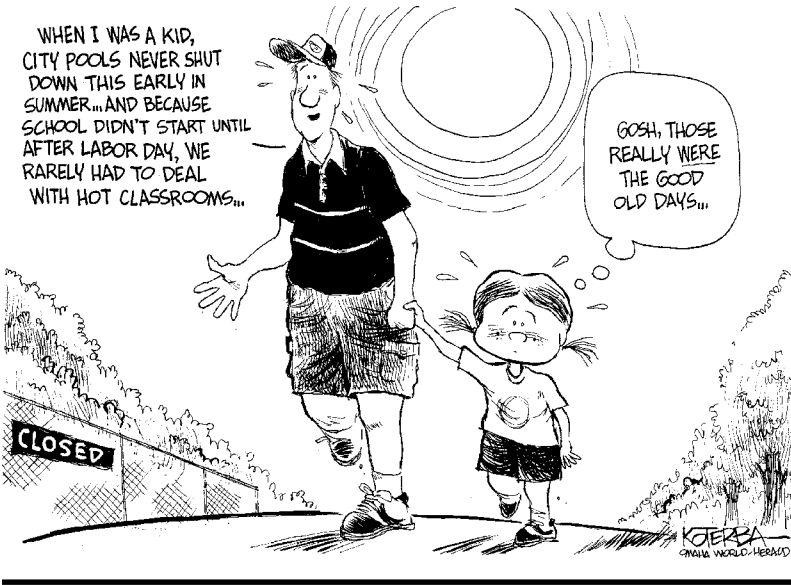
I'm no engineer and even I can see that even a slight rain causes every man-made form of erosion control to crumble and give way. Any kid who ever played with mud pies in the backyard knows that sand shaped into a firm-looking mound will quickly dissolve under a trickle from the water hose.

Every single major development changes the face of the countryside. It changes the route that accumulated water will take as it seeks a natural flow to the river. We have "rules" and "regulations" regarding ponding and drainage which are circumvented, dodged and ducked with a fervency equivalent to how much it will cost to comply.

Our regulatory and governmental bodies are directly responsible, as are the men and women who pocketed the cash, for the damage suffered by families who moved their belongings into homes in approved subdivisions or apartment buildings they trusted were safe, only to find the rug literally pulled out from under them by the first rain storm.

There's a very old Book of wisdom that draws some pretty stark comparisons between houses that are built on sand and those built on rock. It couldn't hurt to study on that some.

Because, you know, it just might rain again.



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Misfortune brings out the best in Socorro community

By Sergio Cox

People have been telling me that they like my articles in the *Courier* and look forward to hearing from me. I have received some criticism about my articles but the positive responses by far outnumber the negative comments.

These past seven days have been the most hectic for the City of Socorro, as most of you know by now. For those of you that have been out of town and quite possibly were not aware, Socorro got rained on! And I do mean rained on. The one day that it didn't actually rain on Socorro, we along with Canutillo, Vinton and El Paso were severely punished. This past Friday Horizon City got bombarded with rain and as a result of this, the run off from the highlands drained on us lowlanders and flooded us out. Most of the damage in the Socorro city limits was in the areas just at the base of the sand hills, in one of our newer housing developments in the Valley Ridge Street area. This is located just south of I-10 between Stockyard Road and Thunder Road directly Southeast of the Petro Truck Stop. Because of the run off from an arroyo we had extensive property damage with people having to be evacuated from their homes, and Valley Ridge Street was completely destroyed. In spite of all this damage

and inconvenience to residents we were extremely blessed that not one life was lost.

In my opinion, the flood was a direct result of a ponding area not being able to sustain the amount of water that entered it. Though only a corp of educated engineers could determine the exact cause, I believe that years of arroyo manipulation by man had a direct impact on the situation. This is something that we, the administration of the City of Socorro, will look into correcting in the very near future. We will address this issue without playing the blame game. Instead we will just move forward from here. The Coker/Worsham/Anderson street area was also flooded as a result of an arroyo run-off. People there were also evacuated and displaced. We will pay the same attention and respect to this area in our attempts to remedy these situations.

I want to thank the following entities and individuals for their help and support in the rescue and clean up efforts: Socorro ISD, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot), the National Guard, Ysleta Del Sur — Tigua Wellness Center, the Socorro Volunteer Fire Department, the Socorro Police Department, the American Red

Cross, Willie Gandara, Sr., the Socorro High baseball team and their coaches, Chris Forbes and Joe Alvarez. If I have overlooked anyone, I apologize, but it was hard to keep up with all who helped. At this time FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has gotten involved and we will be working closely with them to get the aid we need.

I don't know when it was that I worked as hard and as long as I did these past four days, with meetings and flood damage control. I have to compliment our Mayor, Council, and Administration on a job well done in our hour of crisis. Yes, we had our quirks, but anybody that understands "Murphy's Law" knows how troublesome Murphy can be. Murphy always finds a way to get involved. As I glance into the sky, I can only hope that the worst is behind us. I want to reiterate that in spite of everything that had "gone awry" our people, with good old-fashioned will and determination, persevered. Sometimes it takes a good rude awakening to show just how strong a community can be, and the City of Socorro will always come through with flying colors.

Sergio Cox is the At-Large City Rep. for the citizens of Socorro.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Emergency crews acted well during flooding

Hola, mi gente! First let me be thankful that we in the Mission Valley area did not have anyone seriously injured or killed by the floods last week. Unfortunately, the floods did have a massive impact on our lives.

On Saturday, July 29, I visited the area in Clint where a flash flood had inflicted tremendous damage to some homes there. The floodwater came rushing down from the arroyos through the Clint landfill and over In-

terstate 10 with such force that it cut a 25 foot deep chasm through level land. Tons of earth were moved in a matter of minutes. The mud flow could have buried some of the homes and seriously injured the occupants, but thanks be to God, those brave homeowners survived with relatively minor injuries.

The following Monday and Tuesday, as you are all aware, this area received more rain than El Paso normally gets in a full year. The stage was set for flooding throughout the valley. I and my staff became very concerned that some of your neighbors were going to be stranded by

rising waters.

I contacted the local offices of the state agencies which have the responsibility of protecting you. My staff made calls to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in order to be certain that they were aware of the dangerous situation.

I was very pleased to be informed that the agencies were already involved in making the necessary plans. TxDOT started early Tuesday

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Community pulled together, needs more help

After visiting the homes of Canutillo, Upper and Lower Valley residents when the storms first hit last week, I quickly learned the enormity of the efforts necessary to rebuild our community. However, when talking with those who sought refuge at Canutillo Elementary School, I also learned of the perseverance and strength evident even in the face of such loss. Individuals who had lost everything weren't about to give up, they were ready to rebuild their homes and their lives.

These families — and all others affected by the flooding and mudslides — need and deserve the assistance of the federal government. We have to rebuild whole neighborhoods, and we have to rebuild our infrastructure.

I also want to thank El Paso's first responders for their tireless work and quick action on behalf of our community. The National Guard, Fort Bliss personnel, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and others really

pulled together to assist residents in a timely and professional manner. The federal government must provide funding to assist and augment these efforts as we move forward.

I have been in constant contact with the Bush Administration since the start of the flooding, writing President Bush three times with regular updates and emphasizing the urgency with which he should designate El Paso a federal disaster area. I have been working with local, state and federal representatives, including Mayor John Cook and the City of El Paso, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Bliss, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, our Texas Senators, and the Red Cross. Just this week, I hosted Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison as she surveyed the damage in El Paso, and emphasized the great need throughout El Paso and the region.

I have also supplied President Bush with a breakdown of the federal assistance necessary for El Paso to move forward, detailing our long-term infrastructure, health and safety needs, as well as the need to engage the Mexican federal government in emergency response, infrastructure

and public health efforts.

Various organizations in El Paso can assist families as we recover from the storms. The following information might be helpful:

For supplies for clean-up and shelter or housing, contact the American Red Cross - El Paso at 592-0208.

For permanent or temporary relocation assistance, contact the City Government at 541-4994.

For assistance cleaning your property, contact the Salvation Army at 544-9811.

The Red Cross and Salvation Army can also help with needs such as food, clothing, personal hygiene and other supplies.

As we move forward, the safety and well-being of El Paso families is my number one concern, and I will continue to do everything in my power to secure the assistance of the federal government. I am proud of our efforts so far to help those in need, and thank everyone who has given of their time, provided supplies, and/or contributed financially. We have a large task ahead of us, but by working together, we will rebuild our community and our lives.

Anthony mostly unscathed by flooding

ANTHONY — The quiet atmosphere in the Anthony Town Hall last Friday was in marked contrast to the beehive of flood-related activity in Vinton, just a few miles to the south.

It was town business as usual in Anthony, a community that escaped major damage from the torrential rains that fell on the Upper Valley last week.

- The mayor was holding a budget meeting with two council members.
- The town clerk met with community members on routine matters.
- An individual was being fingerprinted in the Anthony Police Department.

Fifteen businesses suffered water damage with flood debris littering parking lots and Doniphan, said Police Chief Edward Miranda. He said 10 homeowners reported "minimal damage" from waters lapping up to

their doors.

"My heart goes out to the people of Vinton," said Mayor Art Franco. "We were lucky," he admits. "The residential area was fairly safe." However, the surging water broke some sewer lines up near the interstate. He described it as an ongoing problem.

"We have a good flood control system." Through a built-in drainage system, water coming down Wildcat Drive/Spur 6 goes under Doniphan Drive and the railroad tracks into a large ponding area on the west side of town.

The geography of the area contributes to the luck. Franco noted there was only one arroyo in the area. It is located in the south part of town and runs through La Tuna Federal Correctional Institution land.

— Contributed by Don Woodward

PUBLIC NOTICE Fabens Independent School District Provision II Feeding Program 2006-2007

The Fabens Independent School District will be serving all students enrolled in the District a free lunch and a free breakfast under the National School Lunch Program for the academic year 2006-2007. Each student will be receiving meals at no charge regardless of your income or family size.

Adult Prices	
Breakfast	\$1.75
Lunch	\$2.60

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WTCC: 08/10/06

Public Notice Canutillo Independent School District 504 Child Find

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator, Karen Judd, at 877-7433, or mail at P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835.

Aviso de Identificación de Estudiantes Incapacitados bajo la Sección 504

Bajo la Sección del Decreto de Rehabilitación de 1973, el Distrito Escolar esta obligado a identificar, referir, evaluar, y propocionar servicios educativos apropiados y gratuitos a los estudiantes incapacitados que califican bajo esta ley. Si usted desea mas información sobre los derechos de padres de niños incapacitados, o si tiene preguntas sobre la identificación, evaluación, y colocación de niños en el programa de Sección 504, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Coordinadora de 504 del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Canutillo, Karen Judd, al numero 877-7433, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835.

WTCC: 08/10/06

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

Health screenings help early detection

As a long-time advocate of preventive health care, I often hit the road traveling to communities in the 23rd Congressional District discussing the importance of regular screenings for a variety of medical conditions. During this August work period, I will be traveling across my congressional district hosting health care events and meeting with residents about issues currently before Congress. I hope you can join me as I travel the district. I would also invite you to think about your personal health and that of your family members. Preventive medicine and early detection are your best bet for avoiding costly and debilitating health conditions down the road. There will be many community health care events and free screenings taking place across the 23rd Congressional District.

I especially encourage you to get screened for a debilitating disease called glaucoma. Glaucoma is a group of eye disorders that cause blindness by harming the optic nerve, the large nerve that is responsible for vision. In glaucoma, optic-nerve damage is related to pressure changes

in fluid circulating inside the front portion of the eyeball. In many patients, this damage occurs when the eye's internal fluid pressure is abnormally high, but it also can occur when the internal pressure is measured as normal.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in America. Because its symptoms are subtle, they often go undiagnosed and lead to irreversible blindness. More than half of all people who have the first stages of glaucoma do not know they have the condition. Over three million Americans have the disease and sadly, over five million people go blind each year as a result of the disease. Although glaucoma can inflict anyone, Hispanic Americans are at an increased risk of developing the disease. A recent survey of Hispanics found that 62 percent of those with glaucoma did not know that they had the disease. Persons with diabetes are 40 percent more likely to develop glaucoma in their lifetime. While glaucoma is not curable, early diagnosis gives you the best odds of preserving your vision.

In addition to the personal difficulties of those individuals who have gone blind, blindness is also costly to society. In terms of lost wages, lost productivity, disability, Medicaid and Medicare, lost tax revenues and many other hidden expenses, millions of dollars can be saved by stopping the progression of glaucoma.

To combat this tragic disease, I have worked closely with the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation to make these ongoing free community screenings a reality. As a leader in the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, I have worked to provide millions of dollars in funding for free glaucoma screenings. Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation in cooperation with the Southwest Texas Eye Collaborative, hundreds of residents in need have received a glaucoma screening free of charge.



Vinton’s new administration suffers ‘baptism by flood’

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

VINTON — We’ve heard of a “baptism by fire,” a phrase that describes people suddenly having to deal with very difficult situations, but Madeleine Praino, Vinton’s new mayor, more accurately has received a “baptism by flood.”

Since her election in May, Praino and her Village Council have dealt with two major floods that have ravaged and rocked this small Upper Valley community.

This week Vinton, nearby Westway and neighboring Canutillo are drying out and cleaning up following last week’s heavy rains that pounded the area, causing widespread damage to homes, roadways and utilities.

Support poured in for the three beleaguered communities that bore the brunt of the deluge that hammered the El Paso area throughout the past week.

Earth-moving equipment and trucks from TXDOT (Texas Department of Trans-

portation) and El Paso County Roads and Bridges Department scraped and hauled off debris from arroyos and off roads like Kiely, Ledbetter, Holguin and Danny Boy to make them more passable.

At a number of homes, residents were drying out water-damaged household furniture and carpeting in front yards.

Last Friday four Army National Guard trucks were parked across from Vinton’s municipal offices.

Staff Sgt. Jerardo Vasquez was in charge of the small contingent of troops who were filling sandbags. He said the troops were used primarily for manual labor — clearing streets and taking military meals to stranded residents.

He estimated there were about 90 Guard troops helping out in the area.

“Unfortunately I’ve had too much experience (in this area),” said Vasquez, who was sent to New Orleans and Houston to help after Hurricane Katrina.

“The community is coming together. Neighbor is helping

neighbor,” said Vasquez. His home on Fairbanks Drive in Northeast El Paso had runoff lapping over the curbs.

With federal, state and local officials still assessing the damages to homes, businesses and roads, Vinton Mayor pro-tem Joe Alarcon says the final damage figures are not yet in.

An indicator of the scope of damage comes from Jessica Garza, secretary for the village of Vinton.

As of last Friday, she reported 120 homes were damaged and in need of repair. Two homes were destroyed. Between 30 and 40 mobile homes were restabilized on their foundations.

Ernie Carrizal, assistant roads and bridges department administrator for El Paso County, said two roads in Westway were 80 percent destroyed. Other roadways were 40 percent to 50 percent destroyed. “We are trying to get them temporarily rebuilt,” he said. He added that they were pumping out water to relieve pressure in ponding areas. Flooded areas in Canutillo off of Talbot and along First and

Second streets.

“This is the worst I’ve seen,” added Carrizal who has worked with department for 18 years.

Alarcon said Monday that work continued over the week-end to clear away debris from the arroyos, repair roads and restore essential services.

“It will take a while to recover, but we have made strides,” the councilman said. He estimates 98 percent of homes now have electricity. Gas lines have been restored to about 70 percent of homes. Telephone service is available to 50 percent of the homes.

“The community has pulled together,” Alarcon echoed, noting that we “cry the same tear and suffer the same pain.”

This, he said would make it easier to find long-term solutions to their water problems.

— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

CLEANUP CONVOY — Trucks hauled load after load of debris and mud from the Vinton area after flood waters traversed the community last week.



— Photo courtesy El Paso Sheriff

THE MIGHTY RIO GRANDE — For once, the Rio Grande lived up to its moniker, in a way not seen by most people now living. The torrential rains caused the river to overflow its banks in several areas in Upper Valley community.



Canutillo Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Canutillo Independent School District provides the following educational program/services to identified disabled children who reside within the district beginning on the third birthday through age twenty-one.

Instructional Program: including Early Childhood (beginning on the third birthday through age five), Resource (grades K-12) and Self-Contained (grades K-12); 2) Diagnostic Services; 3) Transportation Services; 4) Speech Therapy; 5) Counseling Services; 6) Adaptive Equipment Services; 7) Physical Therapy; 8) Occupational Therapy; 9) School Health Services; and 10) Homebound Services.

Services are provided to identified auditorial and visually impaired children who reside within the district from birth through age twenty-one.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Public Law 105-17, parents and adult students have the right to inspect educational records. District policies FL and FL-E provide for record access, confidentiality, and complaint procedures.

If you would like more information or know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Janine Hammock, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7450.

El Distrito Escolar de Canutillo SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

El distrito escolar de Canutillo provee los siguientes programas/ servicios educacionales a niños que son identificados como desabilitados que viven dentro del distrito comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta los 21 años.

Programa de instrucción: infancia temprana (comenzando con el tercer cumpleaños hasta la edad de cinco años), cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terepia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia fisica; 8) terapia ocupacional; 9) servicios de salud escolar; y 10) servicios de clases en el hogar.

Se provee servicios a niños identificados como desabilitados audible y visualmente que viven dentro del distrito desde nacimiento hasta la edad de 21 años.

Conforme al Acto de Derechos y Confidencia Educacionales de Familia de 1974 y Ley Publica 105-17, padres y alumnos adultos tienen el derechos de ver los archivos educativos. Polizas FL y FL-E explican los derechos, la confidencialidad, y el proceso para quejarse.

Si usted desea mas información o sabe de un niño/niña desabilitado que vive en el distrito escolar de Canutillo que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Janine Hammock, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835, (915) 877-7450.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

AND AFTER — The water had drained out of Canutillo by this week but the memories, and the damage, will remain for quite some time.

Canutillo

From Page 1

school building which is now being operated as a Red Cross shelter.

The school area in which flood victims first found shelter is needed by students scheduled to return to classes on Aug. 10.

Recent training, keyed to just such an event as a flood, stood the school district in good stead.

With a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), nine attended a weeklong training program in emergency preparedness techniques in Emmitsburg, Maryland, during the last week in July. The newly-trained group returned on a Friday, and the first floods hit on the following Tuesday.

“I’m very proud of our team,” said Dow. “This was an authentic opportunity to put into action what we had learned.

“Our training and team collaboration allowed us to effectively implement an incident command structure to respond appropriately to this emergency.”

In a footnote, she said her team had gone into action armed only with the information recalled from the conference. Boxes of support materials mailed home afterwards hadn’t even arrived when the rains hit. She said they applied what they remembered and drew praise from others for the manner in which they handled the crisis.

“Pauline Dow and her EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) team did a tremendous job in coordinating relief efforts that the district was called upon to perform during this emergency,” said Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD superintendent.

The district worked with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, El Paso County Sheriff’s Department, El Paso Police Department, West Valley Fire Department and Life Ambulance Services.

The school district itself was spared major damage from the rains.

“We had roof leaks that can be repaired in time for the beginning of classes,” Padilla said.

“Our hearts go out to our community residents, many of whom are district employees, and, of course students’ families who suffered significant damage to their homes.”

Chente

From Page 3

morning removing water from the state roads. DPS was in touch with the El Paso County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) conveying road and water conditions. Their communication with the EOC was critical for informing the public which roads were too hazardous. The TCEQ worked throughout the week-end and on Tuesday with the City of El Paso Landfill assessing the condition of the onsite water retention dams. The landfill personnel followed the request of TCEQ and watched the dams constantly for signs of overflow.

It was obvious to me that the state agencies with whom I work were very prepared for the potentially cata-

strophic events.

As your state representative, I would personally like to thank the members of the EOC for their fine effort in managing the county wide emergency. I feel very confident that all of the entities involved worked very well together and will continue to work for the good of the Mission Valley and all of El Paso County.

Everyone will agree that this strange weather affected everyone in El Paso County. I am convinced more than ever that we in East El Paso County must meet with county, city and state officials to re-think our policies on storm runoffs. Ask the good folks on Mankato Road or in the area around the Ramirez Pecan orchard. Ask anyone in Socorro. I will join anyone else who is willing to talk about it. Gracias, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente por la gente.

Briefs

From Page 1

the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provides comprehensive care for healthy and sick children with acute and chronic illnesses and is a source of primary care that aims to educate parents and their children about healthy lifestyles and safety. The health van is scheduled to visit the following campuses each week beginning Aug. 14 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.:

- Monday — Horizon Heights Elementary, 13601 Ryderwood
- Tuesday — Sierra Vista Elementary, 1501 Bob Hope
- Wednesday — Lujan Chavez Elementary 2200 Sun Country Drive
- Thursday — Elfida Chavez Elementary, 11720 Pebble Hills
- Friday — Ernesto Serna Intermediate, 11471 Alameda Avenue

Other services offered include referrals to nutritionists and psychological and social counseling. To schedule an appointment and verify coverage, call 856-5774. Medicaid, CHIP and most commercial insurance are accepted.

■ The Socorro Independent School District will receive state funding to offset the cost of its 2004 bond issue from the state’s Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA). This is expected to lower a portion of the District’s tax rate. SISD will receive matching funds , which will cover 67 percent of the principal and interest payment of nearly \$73 million in bonds to be issued in August 2006. The total savings for 2006 alone will be more than \$2.7 million. The state funding is expected to allow Socorro to reduce the interest and sinking portion of the tax rate. Once the District’s property values are assessed, the administration can determine the specific savings on the tax rate. The Maintenance and Operations tax rate for this year is expected to be less than \$1.25. The current interest and sinking tax rate is at about 27

cents per \$100 valuation. The maintenance and operations portion of the tax rate is just under \$1.36 per \$100. Last year, SISD’s total tax rate was at just under \$1.63 per \$100 valuation.

■ Ever wanted to ask Uncle Sam a question but you weren’t sure how to reach him? Well, with 1 (800) FED-INFO (that’s 1-800-333-4636), he’s only a toll-free phone call away. Need to find out what immunizations are required for your African safari? Or how you can start a small business? Just dial up Uncle Sam at this number, it’s the one-stop source for information about the agencies, programs, and activities of the Federal government. Purchasing surplus government property, Federal government jobs, getting or renewing a passport, college loans, Social Security benefits, getting a patent, or donating blood are among the endless subjects that can be addressed at this number. Specially trained Information Specialists will to take calls in English or Spanish, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET). Recorded information on the most popular topics and frequently asked questions is available any time — day or night.

■ Chelaine Marion, assistant principal at Rojas Elementary in Socorro ISD, was named District 19 President-Elect for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA). Marion and her fellow officers from the 20 TEPSA districts across the state were installed at the association’s July Leadership Conference. “TEPSA’s leaders are committed to Texas children and educators. They represent their communities and state with pride,” said Executive Director Sandi Borden. Since 1917, TEPSA has served Texas principals and supervisors. TEPSA has more than 5,300 members. These administrators supervise more than 150,000 teachers who direct the activities of more than 2.5 million PreK-8 school children.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Canutillo Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 24, 2006 in the Canutillo ISD Administration Facility, 7965 Artcraft Road, El Paso, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.370050/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.294946/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	6.42% (increase)
Debt Service	28.35% (increase)
Total Expenditures	8.35% (increase)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	Preceeding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 1,177,320,711	\$ 1,367,496,817
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 82,686,326	\$ 105,457,878
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 737,572,891	\$ 907,343,798
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 80,346,372	\$ 103,737,866

* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$75,891,279

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.234946*	\$ 1.734946	\$ 2,619	\$4,958
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.330050	\$ 0.315247*	\$ 1.645297	\$2,751	\$ 5,092
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.370050	\$ 0.294946*	\$ 1.664996	\$2,773	\$ 5,568

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 80,865	\$100,372
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 65,290	\$ 82,965
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.734946	\$ 1.664996
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,132.75	\$ 1,381.36
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 248.61

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.664996. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.664996.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,399,939
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 802,758

To ADVERTISE
CALL 852-3235

Hall of Famer, Warren Moon, paved the way for black NFL quarterbacks

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I remember growing up and watching National Football League games in the late 1960s and throughout the 70s.

When I first began watching the NFL, quarterbacks like Roger Staubach, Fran Tarkenton, Johnny Unitas, Len Dawson, Ken Stabler, Bob Griese, Terry Bradshaw, Sonny Jorgensen, Joe Namath, Bart Starr, Joe Kapp and Daryl Lamonica ruled the league.

And while they all shared the great ability to throw the football and lead their teams to winning records, these quarterbacks all shared another characteristic. They were all white.

Back in those days, the mere thought of a black quarterback was unheard of.

After all, everyone knew that black athletes didn't have the intellect, the savvy, or the patience to play the all-important position of quarterback. Right?

How the times, and the stupid thoughts of ignorant people, have changed.

Thank goodness.

Obviously, the only reason black players didn't succeed as quarterbacks back then was because they weren't given a chance. Just like

the black baseball players who were relegated to the old Negro Leagues.

This past weekend we saw six former players and coaches get inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame. We saw two Dallas Cowboys from different eras get in — Troy Aikman and Rayfield Wright.

We saw the late Reggie White get enshrined. We saw former Oakland Raiders coach and “boom” great NFL broadcaster John Madden get in.

We saw former New York Giants middle linebacker Harry Carson finally get in.

But one player stood out from all the rest. Not because he was any better, or richer, or more important or less important. He stood out because he was the first.

Warren Moon was the first black quarterback to be enshrined in the Hall, hopefully putting away any doubts some people may still have about the ability of the black quarterback.

Moon didn't just have a stellar 17-year NFL career, mostly with the Houston Oilers, but he may be the most prolific passer of all time.

I know most fans and experts consider Dan Marino the best passer who ever lived, but consider this — Moon finished his career with 49,325 passing yards, which ranks him fourth all time.

Dan Marino still leads everyone with 61,361. But because the NFL still wasn't sure about a black quarterback, Moon went undrafted and played his first six pro seasons in the Canadian Football League.

While with the CFL's Edmonton Eskimos, Moon won five championships.

All together, Moon passed for over 70,000 yards putting him way ahead of Marino — and everyone else.

When I was growing up I had to hear about the failures of black quarterbacks like James Harris and “Jefferson Street” Joe Gilliam and Marlin Briscoe.

Then guys like Doug Williams and Randall Cunningham came along to open the doors for Steve McNair and Michael Vick and Duante Culpepper and Donovan McNabb.

It was great to see Moon accept his honor over the weekend and prove to the narrow-minded among us that all anyone ever needs is a chance.

A chance to succeed — a chance to fail — just a chance.

The curse of T.O.

Ever wonder what Drew Bledsoe's next move will be if things don't pan out in Dallas? I know exactly where he'll end up if the

Cowboys decide to go in another direction next year.

In fact, it's the only place he can go — to the Philadelphia Eagles.

It has to be the Eagles because it's the team you go to if you've had the misfortune of spending any amount of time throwing the ball to Terrell Owens.

Remember Jeff Garcia? He was ridiculed mercilessly by T.O. until Owens finally said the former San Francisco 49er quarterback was gay.

Remember Donovan McNabb? He is the poor sap who just endured a couple tumultuous seasons with Owens.

T.O. rode McNabb until finally saying that his team would have won more games with a more talented Brett Favre at quarterback.

Proving the adage “misery loves company” correct, Garcia and McNabb are now teammates on the Eagles and must have a lot to talk about — they certainly have a lot in common.

2006 will either be a glorious season for Bledsoe, or one heck of a long season. But look at it this way — if he leaves, he has a place to go.

And just think of all the T.O. stories that McNabb, Garcia and Bledsoe could share.

Of course, they would have to be edited for television.



— Courier staff photo

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE — And for once, it wasn't wanted. Water that had accumulated at Sambrano Elementary was bid an unceremonious farewell by pumping equipment.

After floods, one rule applies to food handling: Exercise caution!

Food and drink spoilage during storms and other disasters is common. If there is a power loss or a flood, you need to check each item to determine whether it is safe to consume. Do not taste any food or drink you think is spoiled!

Items to toss

The consumables listed below are unsafe to eat or drink and should be thrown away:

- Any and ALL food or drinks, even canned or bottled, that have been in contact with floodwater;
- Meat, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs, milk, soft cheese, refrigerator rolls and biscuits, leftovers and other potentially hazardous foods that have been above 40 degrees F for two hours or longer;
- Food that has an unusual odor, color or texture;
- Cans of food that are bulging, opened, dented or damaged.

Disposing of unsafe food

How you dispose of unsafe food depends on your garbage collection service. If your garbage collection

service is in operation, you do the following:

- Wrap the unsafe food tightly in plastic wrap or aluminum foil and place it in a container with a tight-fitting lid.
- Store the container in an area away from people and animals until it can be collected by local garbage collection services.

If your garbage collection service is not in operation:

- Unsafe or spoiled food should be buried.
- To prevent animals from finding and digging up spoiled food, bury it at least four feet deep.
- To minimize health risks, bury unsafe food in an area that will not be disturbed in the near future and is away from the nearest water well or other open water source, including creek, stream or pond.
- If it is not possible to bury the food, you may burn it. Contact local law enforcement officials to make sure you are following county burning laws.

Fraud

From Page 1

repair your home, you may be asked for personal information so a credit check can be performed. Be certain the business is legitimate before you give out your Social Security number and other personal information. If in doubt, do not give your information.

You should examine your bank statements, credit card statements, and other statements closely for unauthorized purchases or withdrawals. About 60 days after the disaster, you should request copies of your credit report from all three major credit bureaus — Experian, TransUnion and Equifax. After a disaster the credit bureaus may not charge victims for their credit reports.

If you believe that someone is committing

identity theft against you or may do so in the future, you may want to add an Initial Security Alert to your personal credit report. This alert will remain on your report for 90 days and will notify anyone who reviews your report to take extra steps to verify your identity before granting credit. You need to request the security alert with only one credit bureau. It will automatically notify the other two to place an alert on your file. Be aware that adding an alert to your credit report may prevent you from opening an account unless the creditor is able to get in touch with you and positively confirm your identity and that you are applying for credit.

Additional information on preventing ID Theft can be obtained at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

More information is available from the Office of the Texas Attorney General, www.oag.state.tx.us. See *Don't Be Victimized Twice — Avoid Disaster Fraud*.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006

AMERICAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD CSP NO.

MOLE MAT PEAL SANEST
AMID RENE RENO AVENUE
RAVI EDGE OLEO GARITER
TRYTOGAINAFWEPOUNDS
DALE XED RATS
DROOL SIS SEAR MAP
YOUREFLOSSINGTOOMUCH
EER AID RAGE BASED
SPACE SLAPS PINT
BEA ALT REA POPE TANK
ITSALOOSEWIRENOCHARGE
OAKS FROG NOR SAO DON
SPIT VALET WINGS
AVOID BITE OWN IVE
YOUCANRETIRERIGHTNOW
EXIT IOTA EKG EAGLE
SALT ALE MORIT
IWISHWEHADTENAARONS
HARASS HEEP OREL AGEE
OTELLO ERAS EGAD FREE
BESEEN NODE DEL TERM

**199-0816-6148
ACCEPTED
UNTIL
2:00 P.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 ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-08/10/06

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2006

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS NATIONAL CSP NO. 199-0817-6147 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

OFFICE AND TEACHING SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0817-6146 ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.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 ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-08/10/06

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at South West Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges: VIN IGNEKI3R5TJ404885, 1996 Chevy Tahoe, white, Mexico license 429-SJK-5 WTCC-08/10/06

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433-4102
8/24

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 solución. Informacion: 838-6264.

SERVICES

AV CONSTRUCTION

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Bathroom Remodeling
Porches, Patios & Carports
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Decks & Ramps
Garage Conversions & Enclosures

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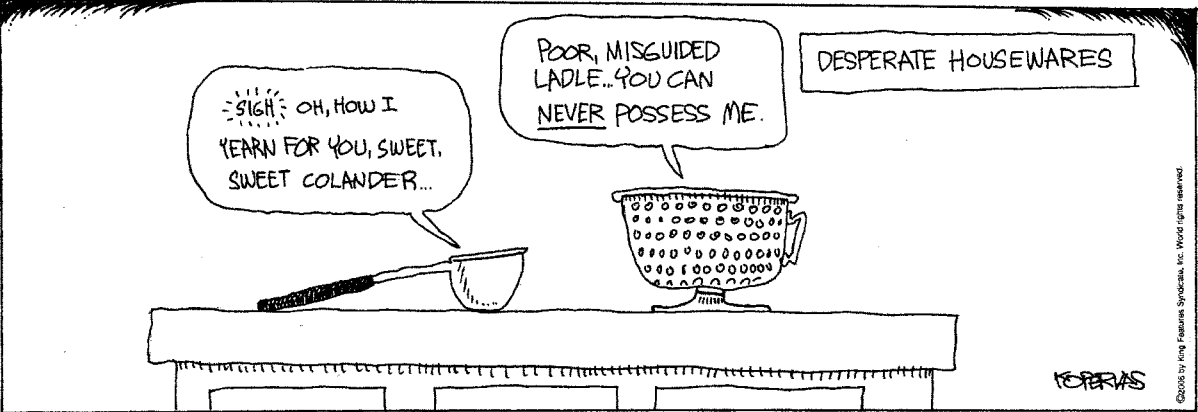
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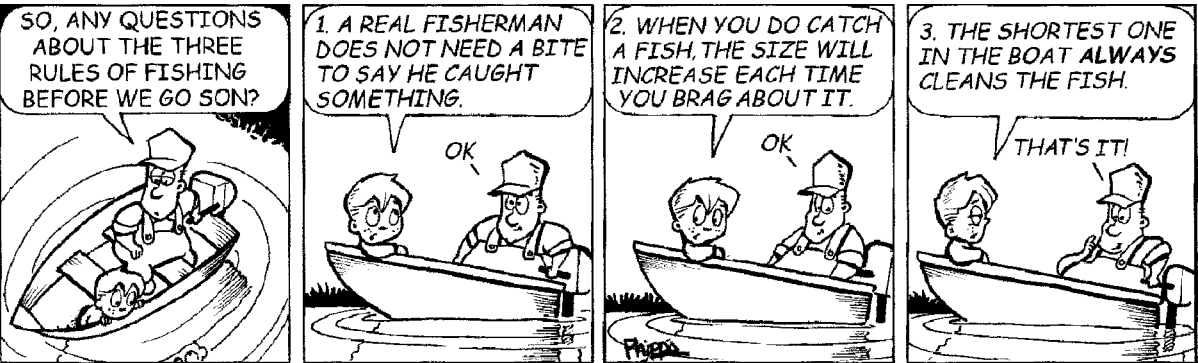
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



Dinosaurs faced trying times

By Don Flood

Previously, tyrannosaurs were considered fairly simple creatures, sort of like Nicole Richie and Paris Hilton, only not so vicious.

Recent studies, however, have shown their lives to be far more complicated — I’m talking about the dinosaurs, of course.

One researcher, according to a CNN.com story, has gone so far as to say that the problems of dinosaurs mirrored those of well-known mammals.

“They went through an honest-to-God midlife crises,” said Gregory M. Erickson, who teaches comparative anatomy at Florida State University.

Reasons for the crises remain murky, though the career path for the average tyrannosaur — the young dinosaurs were expected to be enthusiastic carnivores as they prepared for their future role as King of the Lizards — was, despite the impressive title, quite limiting, perhaps even stifling.

This may have led to the sense of malaise obvious in the recently recovered dinosaur conversation below, which comes to us courtesy of Doolittle Ancient Reptilian Conversation Services, the leading company in the field:

MRS. T (peevied): What is bothering you?

MR. T: ... Oh, nothing.

MRS. T: Out with it.

MR. T: Well, mammals for one. I think they’re taking over. Oh, we may have a few million years of the Late Cretaceous Period left, but the mammals are moving in — mark my words.

MRS. T: You can’t be serious. Those horrid little creatures! I don’t even like eating them. All that hair gets in your mouth. Yuck! Besides, they’d give anything to be you.

MR. T: No, they wouldn’t. In

fact, I detect a certain... sarcasm in their manner toward me.

MRS. T: I’ve never even heard of... what did you call it? Sarcasm?

MR. T: That’s because there is no dinosaur word for sarcasm. It’s a way of saying something you don’t really mean. Very strange. We’re straightforward creatures. We say, “Good morning, how you doing? I’m going to bite your head off and eat you.” We don’t have any hidden agendas.

MRS. T: Agendas?

MR. T: Another mammal word. They all have agendas, and most of them are hidden.

MRS. T: What has happened to you? You’re not the reptile I married.

MR. T: You know, one of them actually called me a “dinosaur.”

MRS. T: Dear, you are a dinosaur.

MR. T: Yes, I know, but there was some hidden meaning in the way he said it, as if “dinosaur” was a synonym for old-fashioned or obsolete.

MRS. T: That’s ridiculous. You’re not obsolete. You’re King, the Terrible Lizard.

MR. T: Yeah, but that whole “terrible lizard” thing might not play well in the next geological epoch. In the coming age, we may have to think of new ways to market ourselves.

MRS. T: Market? Don’t tell me — another mammal word.

MR. T: Yes, another mammal word, and they’re quite good at it.

MRS. T: Look, there’s nothing the matter with you that a little death and destruction wouldn’t cure. Go out there and slaughter some herbivores. That always makes you feel better.

MR. T: Maybe a convertible...

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

WISHFUL THINKING

ACROSS

- 1 Velvety burrower
- 5 Welcome item?
- 8 Belfry sound
- 12 Most rational
- 18 In the course of
- 19 Actor Auberjonois
- 20 Betting setting
- 21 "Electric _" ('83 hit)
- 22 Sitarist Shankar
- 23 TV's "The _ of Night"
- 24 Toast topper
- 25 Elastic band
- 26 My doctor told me ...
- 30 Chip's chum
- 31 Made one's mark
- 32 Cry of disgust
- 33 Salivate
- 36 Slangy sib
- 37 Burn
- 39 AAA handout
- 42 My dentist told me ...
- 48 Ending for "auction"
- 49 Pitch in
- 50 Wrath
- 51 Stationed
- 52 It's out of this world
- 55 Clouts a cad
- 57 Milk measurement
- 58 Arthur or Pons
- 61 Cockpit fig.

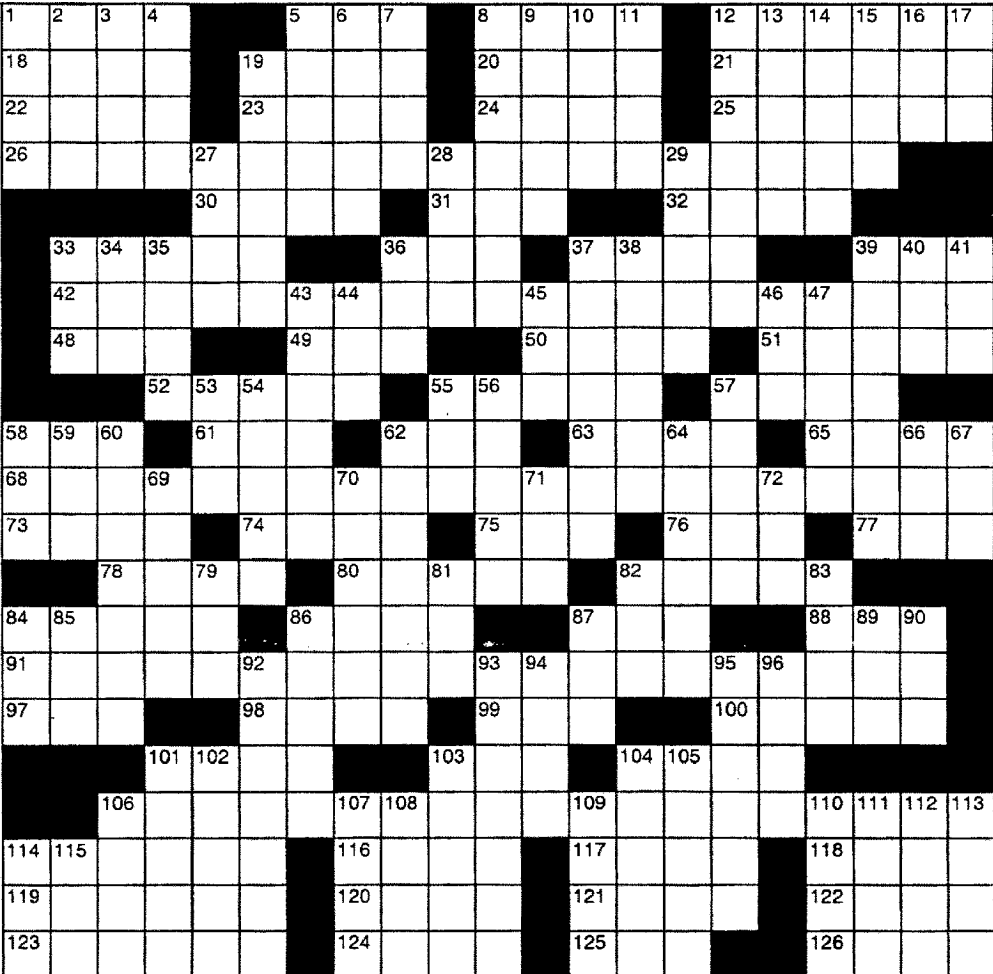
- 62 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 63 Bishop of Rome
- 65 Summer top
- 68 My mechanic told me ...
- 73 Thousand _, CA
- 74 Jeremy Fisher, for one
- 75 Scand. nation
- 76 _ Tome
- 77 Giovanni or Rickles
- 78 Rotisserie part
- 80 Jeeves' profession
- 82 Sitcom set in Nantucket
- 84 Shun
- 86 Quick snack
- 87 Hold the title
- 88 " _ Gotta Be Me" ('69 hit)
- 91 My accountant told me ...
- 97 Switchboard abbr.
- 98 Smidgen
- 99 Med. test
- 100 Bald bird
- 101 Cold-war accord
- 103 Pub order
- 104 Comic Sahl
- 106 My son's teacher told me ...
- 114 Pester
- 116 Dickens villain
- 117 Turgenev's birthplace
- 118 Screenwriter

- James
- 119 Verdi opera
- 120 Ages
- 121 "Good gracious!"
- 122 Liberate
- 123 "Children should _ ..."
- 124 Bump
- 125 Dover's st.
- 126 Semester
- DOWN
- 1 Shopping center
- 2 Actor Epps
- 3 Roman historian
- 4 Correct a text
- 5 Olympic award
- 6 Harmon or Dickinson
- 7 Rock hound?
- 8 Claim
- 9 Sniggled
- 10 From the top
- 11 Bow part
- 12 Southwestern sticker
- 13 _-garde
- 14 "Revenge of the _" ('84 film)
- 15 Middle Earth denizens
- 16 Author Grafton
- 17 Dist.
- 19 Entertain lavishly
- 27 Bouquet
- 28 Geometry term
- 29 Spout like Cicero
- 33 Turn blue?

- 34 Caviar
- 35 Yours and mine
- 36 Turf
- 37 Food fish
- 38 Urges
- 39 Sandwich spread
- 40 Sleeve contents?
- 41 Third degree?
- 43 Element
- 44 Speak with a forked tongue
- 45 Roth _
- 46 Kimono closer
- 47 Devilfish
- 53 Good buddy
- 54 High up
- 55 Make a muumuu
- 56 Singer Cleo
- 57 Pie nut
- 58 Jacket info
- 59 Letter from Athens
- 60 Invites on a date
- 62 Henley happening
- 64 Model's job
- 66 _ Dinh Diem
- 67 He's a doll
- 69 "A Dandy in _" ('68 film)
- 70 Communist council
- 71 Plant disease
- 72 Grab all the goodies
- 79 Ms. Lupino
- 81 Wahine's wreath
- 82 1914-18 letters
- 83 Perform in "Parsifal"

- 84 Backer
- 85 _ populi
- 86 Gravy ingredient
- 87 Assoc.
- 89 Cubic meas.
- 90 Lady of the lea
- 92 "Without You" singer
- 93 Backslide
- 94 Got by, with "out"
- 95 Announce
- 96 Birmingham bye-bye
- 101 Marshy lowland
- 102 Usher's beat
- 103 Winning
- 104 Highway sign
- 105 Ron of "Superfly"
- 106 Infuriates
- 107 Impatient
- interrogative
- 108 Architect Saarinen
- 109 _ the line (obeyed)
- 110 Huck's craft
- 111 Brute
- 112 _-do-well
- 113 Appear to be
- 114 Elf
- 115 Gobbled up

Answer Page 6



Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: How do I know if I qualify for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs?

A: You may get a letter from Medicare saying that you automatically qualify for extra help. If you don't automatically qualify, Social Security is sending people with limited income and limited resources an Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. You may qualify if your income is less than \$14,700 for an individual or \$19,800 for a married couple living together,

and your resources are less than \$11,500 for an individual or \$23,000 if you are married and living with your spouse. If you didn't get — or did not complete — an application but think you may qualify, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web. After you complete the application, Social Security will mail you a letter telling you if you qualify for extra help.

Q: I have an appointment to apply for Social Security disability benefits.

A: Yes, there are actions that you can take to speed up the disability decision making process. First, make sure that you keep your appointment with Social Security to apply for benefits as soon as possible. Bring as many medical records as you can, but don't wait to get your medical records before you come in. Ask your treating sources to respond immediately to our requests for information. Have the names and addresses of all doctors, hospitals or clinics that have treated you. Complete your disability application and report as fully as possible. And notify us of changes, especially changes in contact information, such as your address and phone number. These actions will help speed up the processing of your claim, and you can also speed the process further by applying online. For more information about Social Security disability benefits, visit the website.









Q: I am 50 years old and somehow or other — perhaps in changing wallets — I have lost my Social Security card. Since I know my number by heart, do I have to replace my Social Security card?

A: If you know your Social Security number, generally, you do not need to request a replacement card. But if you anticipate starting new employment, you may need to show your Social Security card to your employer when you start the job. In that instance, you may want to request a replacement card in advance.

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.

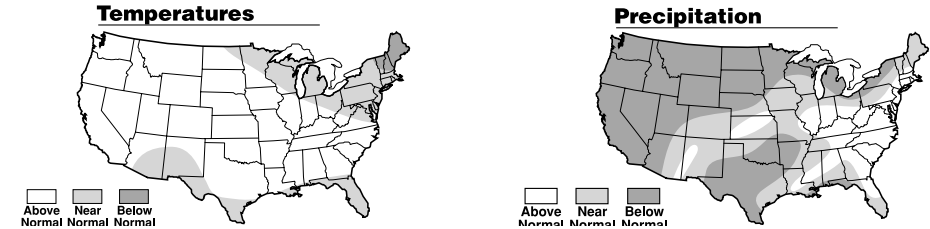
7-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO, TX

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




Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
96°	73°	96° 73°	96° 72°	94° 71°	93° 68°	89° 66°	87° 63°
RealFeel 101°	RealFeel 71°	RealFeel 95° 71°	RealFeel 95° 72°	RealFeel 93° 70°	RealFeel 95° 68°	RealFeel 92° 65°	RealFeel 86° 65°

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WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK



IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Full	Last
Thu.	6:27 a.m.	7:55 p.m.	Thu.	9:04 p.m.	7:43 a.m.		
Fri.	6:28 a.m.	7:54 p.m.	Fri.	9:36 p.m.	8:54 a.m.		
Sat.	6:28 a.m.	7:53 p.m.	Sat.	10:07 p.m.	10:04 a.m.		
Sun.	6:29 a.m.	7:52 p.m.	Sun.	10:39 p.m.	11:12 a.m.		
Mon.	6:30 a.m.	7:51 p.m.	Mon.	11:14 p.m.	12:20 p.m.		
Tues.	6:30 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	Tues.	11:53 p.m.	1:29 p.m.		
Wed.	6:31 a.m.	7:48 p.m.	Wed.	none	2:36 p.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Abilene, TX	98	74	s	97	73	s	95	72	s	93	72	s
Albuquerque, NM	90	67	s	91	67	t	91	66	s	90	67	t
Amarillo, TX	96	69	s	96	68	s	94	68	s	90	65	pc
Austin, TX	98	75	s	98	74	s	96	72	s	94	74	s
Brownsville, TX	94	77	pc	94	79	pc	96	78	s	95	78	s
Dodge City, KS	101	73	s	103	68	pc	96	67	s	90	66	pc
Jackson, MS	93	75	s	92	73	t	91	72	pc	93	74	pc
Laredo, TX	103	80	s	102	79	s	101	79	s	101	79	s
Little Rock, AR	97	76	s	96	74	pc	94	73	s	94	74	pc
Lubbock, TX	98	70	s	98	70	s	96	70	s	92	69	s
Memphis, TN	94	75	t	94	75	pc	94	77	pc	94	75	t
Midland, TX	99	73	s	98	73	s	96	71	s	95	71	s
Pueblo, CO	98	60	s	97	61	s	93	60	t	90	58	t
Roswell, NM	97	68	s	96	70	s	95	69	s	93	67	s
St. Louis, MO	98	78	pc	95	77	pc	93	75	pc	92	73	pc
San Antonio, TX	98	76	s	98	76	s	96	75	s	93	73	s
Texarkana, AR	98	76	s	97	74	s	96	74	s	95	75	pc
Waco, TX	99	77	s	98	76	s	96	77	s	95	73	s
Wichita, KS	100	76	s	100	72	pc	97	74	s	91	71	pc

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

U.S. CITIES

	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W
Atlanta	88	73	t	90	73	t	87	74	t	89	73	t
Boston	85	66	s	76	62	pc	76	62	s	76	65	s
Chicago	88	66	pc	80	64	pc	84	64	pc	86	66	s
Denver	93	60	s	93	59	s	88	59	t	84	59	t
Detroit	84	66	pc	80	64	pc	82	67	pc	86	68	pc
Houston	94	76	pc	94	76	t	92	75	t	93	75	pc
Indianapolis	90	72	pc	82	70	t	83	71	pc	89	71	pc
Kansas City	98	76	s	92	69	pc	92	72	s	90	70	t
Los Angeles	88	66	s	84	66	pc	82	66	pc	82	66	pc
Miami	92	80	pc	91	80	pc	91	80	pc	91	79	pc
Minneapolis	80	69	t	82	62	pc	85	68	pc	83	66	t
New Orleans	93	76	t	90	78	t	91	78	t	91	79	pc
New York City	89	70	s	82	68	pc	81	66	s	80	71	s
Omaha	93	73	pc	88	68	pc	92	70	s	87	67	t
Phoenix	102	86	t	102	85	t	104	85	pc	106	86	s
San Francisco	72	56	pc	72	56	pc	72	56	pc	74	57	pc
Seattle	72	52	pc	74	54	pc	76	56	s	76	56	s
Washington	89	73	s	86	72	t	84	68	pc	85	70	s



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