

NEWSBRIEFS

Faith-based aid

In response to El Paso's recent floods, a national church community group has provided relief supplies for distribution throughout El Paso County. About 12 pallets of bottled water, Gatorade, soup mixes and cleaning supplies to assist those in most need were delivered by Convoy of Hope, a nonprofit organization that serves the United States and the world by providing disaster relief, building supply lines and sponsoring outreaches to the poor and hurting in communities through local churches. "We called Convoy of Hope and told them what was happening in El Paso," said Bethel Assembly senior pastor Ben Hodge. "They quickly responded and dropped off the 12 pallets of supplies." Supplies will be distributed on Friday, Aug. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at three strategic locations. The Canutillo point will be Templo Nueva Jerusalem, 6945 Doniphan. The Socorro point will be Templo Centro de Fe, 11670 Socorro Rd. The central point will be Grace Christian Center, 4310 Alameda.

Swimming dangers

Due to the recent swimming pool accidents that occurred on Friday, Aug. 11, involving a four-year-old boy and an eight-year-old girl, El Paso Fire Department officials would like to remind the public that it is essential to take extra safety precautions around swimming pools. Each year in the United States 250 children under five years of age drown in swimming pools, said Lt. Mario E. Hernandez. In addition, 2,300 children will be treated at hospitals this year for injuries suffered in swimming pool accidents. To prevent swimming pool drownings and accidents, layers of protection are essential. Closely supervising young children and being prepared in case of an emergency are two very important things to remember. In addition:

- If a child is missing, always look in the swimming pool first. Seconds count!
- Knowing how to swim doesn't make a child drown-proof.
- Never use a floatation device as a substitute for supervision.
- Keep rescue equipment and a phone next to the pool.
- Install barriers around the pool. Fences and walls should be at least four feet high.
- Gates should be self-closing and self-latching.
- Never leave toys floating in the pool. They attract young children who might try to reach for them.
- Use a pool cover when the pool is not in use.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The life you save might be your child's.

In other news

■ Socorro Independent School District will have an early release date for students

See BRIEFS, Page 8

One part of knowledge consists in being ignorant of things that are not worth knowing.

Quips & Quotes

Officer's long and distinguished service record earns recognition

EL PASO COUNTY — Deputy Carlos Tavarez was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by El Paso American Legion Law Enforcement Post 74 and the Forty et Eight.

He is a 23-year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and currently assigned to the Patrol Section. He was involved in a number of community projects for the Sheriff's Office, but was a strong advocate for community policing in the Canutillo neighborhood.

El Paso American Legion Law Enforcement Post 74 was organized in 1987 as a specialty post whose members must not only be wartime service veterans but also active or retired law enforcement officers. Judging guidelines for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year include performance in community service, professional career, heroism, and letters of recognition.

The Forty et Eight is a society committed to

charitable works. Membership is by invitation for members of the American Legion who have shown exemplary service.

Tavarez continues to be a relentless promoter of the Graffiti Wipeout Campaign as he works with community leaders and businesses to continue the decrease in graffiti incidents. At his recognition ceremony he encouraged the residents of Canutillo to take ownership of their community.

"I'm proud of all of the men and women in our agency. I'm extremely proud of Deputy Tavarez for his hard work," said El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego. "The statewide recognition as Law Enforcement Officer of the

Year by Forty et Eight chapter is a credit to his commitment to making El Paso a great community."

"I'm humbled by the award," Tavarez said. "It really is a team effort. Everyone I work with in community service and patrol knows we can make a difference — today someone noticed."



— Courtesy El Paso County Sheriff's Office

SERVICE RECORD NOTED — Deputy Carlos Tavarez thanked the American Legion and his co-workers after being named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Montwood Middle Principal recognized at regional level

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Montwood Middle School Principal Libby Tidwell was named Middle School Principal of the Year for Region XIX by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. Tidwell along with another Socorro ISD administrator, Rosemary Menchaca, who won High School Assistant Principal of the Year for Region XIX, will be honored at the state summer conference in Austin next June.

Both are also nominated for state honors

which will be decided in the upcoming months.

"I am very fortunate because the committee felt I was deserving of the honor based on the nominee form," says Tidwell. "I am honored to receive this award for Region XIX because I know that there are a lot of people who are deserving of this honor."

The 2006-2007 marks Montwood Middle's



Libby Tidwell

See TIDWELL, Page 6

Blobner appointed to Horizon City council seat Council rejects committee recommendations

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

HORIZON CITY — The Horizon City Council has filled by appointment a vacancy created by the resignation of Councilman Bethany Shillady Sellers, electing to decline recommendations made by its citizens' committee.

On Aug. 8, at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, recommendations were made to fill Place 5 left vacant by Sellers, who resigned because she was moving to Florida.

Duane Juvrud addressed Council as a member of the committee appointed by council to study applications and make recommendations regarding the appointment. Juvrud said the committee had selected two names to submit for the council's consideration as the best candidates to fill the position.

Other members of the review committee were Dawn Post and former Horizon City Mayor Pat Randleel.

Juvrud said the committee members had

gone over the qualifications and felt that either Ellis Thompson or Donald Robert Smasal were the best qualified of the eight who had submitted resumes and letters of interest.

Council members questioned Juvrud regarding the basis on which they had made their recommendations. Juvrud said they looked primarily at their work history and experience.

He added that the committee had eliminated two applicants because they had been candidates who previously ran for City Council, but were defeated. Juvrud, speaking on behalf of the committee, said they felt the community had voiced its opinion about the two at the ballot box.

Councilman Luis Najera then made a motion to nominate Jay Blobner, a former city councilman who was one of the candidates who had previously run but lost the election by a small margin.

It was stated that Council members felt he had done a good job during his service and that he would be best person to fill the vacancy. Council then voted unanimously to appoint Blobner to replace Sellers in Place 5.

El Paso County approved for federal disaster aid

Courier Staff Reports

EL PASO COUNTY — President Bush has approved a federal disaster declaration for El Paso as a result of recent flooding in the area.

"This disaster declaration means much needed assistance to El Paso is on its way," Gov. Rick Perry said. "Dozens of El Paso-area residents' homes were severely damaged or destroyed in the flooding, and this action will help them get back on their feet."

State Representative Chente Quintanilla added that people will have to initiate their own claims. "Please be aware of when the disaster teams visit your area. My office will have information available if you have questions. My staff and I will be there to help you," said Quintanilla. "Now our county will be visited by scores of people who will be recording your problems in order to provide financial assistance. I urge all of you who need help to be prepared with the information the Feds will need such as pictures and receipts."

Under the Federal Stafford Act, Tuesday's action makes Texans whose homes and property were destroyed or damaged by flooding eligible to receive individual assistance.

Heavy rains began in El Paso in late July and lasted more than a week. August brought torrential rains that washed out roads and flooded homes.

Individual Assistance programs are provided for losses by individuals and families that are not covered by insurance. Individual assistance can include financial assistance, temporary housing, tax relief, legal services, crisis counseling and Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

El Paso also is eligible for Public Assistance, which is provided for damages to roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, publicly-owned utilities and other public structures.

Assistance to small businesses also is available through Small Business Administration (SBA) loans.

Other assistance programs that are made available with a Presidential Disaster Declaration include:

- For people who have lost their homes, disaster housing assistance can include funds for repairs, providing temporary housing, rental assistance or reimbursement for hotel/motel lodging costs.
- Other Needs Assistance from the Individual and Households Program is provided for necessary expenses and serious needs not met by insurance, loans or other forms of assistance. Among other things, this assistance can be provided for medical, dental and funeral expenses.
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest loans to homeowners, renters and businesses affected by the disaster.
- Crisis counseling is available to anyone in the designated disaster area.
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance is administered by the Texas Workforce

See AID, Page 9



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Advocacy for the under-chicken

I read an article recently that would make a white dove’s feathers stand on end.

In Cuban communities which practice Santeria — an Afro-Cuban religion still extant in Cuba and Florida — the white dove, goats, chickens and other popular sacrificial animals are constantly looking over their shoulders these days because they are likely to lose their lives as part of a sacrificial prayer that Fidel Castro either get well or die, depending on one’s politics.

According to Reuters news agency, the creature-dealers in Miami are doing a booming business — about \$15 a bird.

We in the so-called “civilized world” may scoff at the way less-de-

veloped cultures interrelate with the animal kingdom. We understand that it won’t make one bit of difference in Castro’s health whether you give a goat to an imaginary god. We are united in our understanding that humans, supposedly being among the more intelligent of life forms, have a responsibility to relate to our fellow creatures on this planet with balance and compassion, right?

Well, maybe that depends on your politics, too.

There’s an entire segment of our society who are members of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) or at least sympathize with their views. These folks are militant in their insistence that animals are due *at least* all the inalienable rights that humans have, if not more. And they are willing to put their money

where their mouth is, not to mention their monthly e-mail allotments. Judging from the size and frequency of their lawsuits, they’ve apparently got some pretty wealthy members.

While we have strict laws prohibiting cruelty to animals, we think nothing of giving various kinds of animals some horrendous diseases for the sole purpose of testing the effectiveness of equally fearsome treatments to see if we can cure them.

Reminds me a little of our “civilized” policy on abortion where parents, with the assistance of a doctor, can kill an unborn baby intentionally, no one faces legal consequences. However, if the mother refuses prenatal care or takes harmful drugs, she could face criminal prosecution as can the person at fault who injures or kills an unborn child in a car accident or by some other unfortunate circumstance.

Hmmm...

We get plumb up in arms with people who starve their animals but there is an animal shelter in Germany which wants to file charges against the owner of a cat which was anony-

mously left there because the cat is *overweight*. They put the cat, named Milka, on a crash diet and administered all kinds of emergency health care. They posted pictures of it on the internet so you can go look at it and keep track of its trek back to health. I was just thinking that there are starving children all over the world who would like to get that kind of attention.

Then there is a man facing prosecution for freezing the body of his dog — which died of natural causes — because he didn’t have time to give it a proper burial. Unfortunately, the reason he didn’t have time to bury it was because he was moving to a new apartment, and he failed to retrieve his dog before the new tenant moved into his vacated quarters. It gave her quite a shock when she opened the freezer door.

Even when one of our animal friends goes completely beyond all bounds of good behavior and commits an unpardonable act, we sometimes can’t bring ourselves to administer justice. Reminds me sort of how our justice system says that people who commit unspeak-

able and debased crimes should be put to death but still keeps them alive on death row for decades. Consider the saga of Barney, the sleek and handsome Doberman guard dog.

He was supposed to be guarding an exhibition of rare and valuable teddy bears, but instead he went a little nuts one night and tore a bunch of them up.

Among these was a bear named Mabel, reputed to be a beloved possession of the late rock n’ roll legend Elvis Presley, more recently the property of one Sir Benjamin Slade who paid about \$75,000 for it at auction. He is said to be “hopping mad.”

The spokesman for the exhibition said Barney will be put to pasture where, incredibly, “he can chase chickens.”

Back where I came from, a dog that chased chickens met its fate a whole lot quicker than one that chewed up a stuffed toy.

There really should be an advocacy for the under-chickens Barney is going to harass. At least we don’t provide an equivalent for the folks on death row... do we?

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Moore Texas

by Roger T. Moore At 40 feet tall , the Cowboy boots at North Star Mall in San Antonio are the world's biggest.

New bus route eases East Side drivers’ commute to UTEP campus

By Laura S. Ruelas
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO — UTEP and Sun Metro have teamed up to offer the University Express, a direct bus route from El Paso’s East Side to the UTEP campus.

Starting Monday, Aug. 14, the express will go from the Sun Metro Eastside Terminal, 1165 Sunmount Drive behind Cielo Vista Mall, to the campus at University Avenue and Oregon Street. Sun Metro provides free parking and 24-hour security at the Eastside Terminal.

The express takes I-10 to Mesa and has only two other stops: El Paso Community College’s Rio Grande campus and at the corner of Hague Road and Oregon Street, near Las Palmas Medical Center and Providence Hospital.

“This is a great collaboration with Sun Metro. We will be providing members of our UTEP community with a good way to save time and money on gas,” said Victor Pacheco, assistant vice president for business affairs.

The express route will run every 30 minutes from 6:45 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters. Final pick-up from campus will be at 9:15 p.m.

Fare is 50 cents per ride for students or \$20 for a one-month pass. The monthly pass can be purchased at the Student Business Services cashier counter in the Academic Services Building.

Students also have the option of purchasing a 20-ride punch card for just \$10. A Sun Metro student ID is required to receive the discount rate and when using the punch card or monthly pass. Students can visit any local Sun Metro office to get their free ID. Proof of enrollment is required.

The University Express is also open to UTEP faculty, staff and the public. Fare is \$1 per ride. Special discounts are available for seniors, military and the disabled.

For more information, contact Sun Metro at 915/533-3333 or the UTEP Traffic Office, Academic Services Building, Room 122, at 915/747-5724.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The Courier reserves the right not to print letters to the editor or other submitted materials it considers inappropriate.

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ONE TEAM - ONE GOAL



Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Two projects showcase El Paso’s visionary approach to water

El Paso is leading the country and even the world in the area of water resources management. In the Eastside, the \$87 million El Paso/Fort Bliss Desalination Plant is currently under construction. This facility, un-

der the leadership of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board (PSB), will produce 27.5 million gallons of water per day and is the largest public-public partnership involving the Department of Defense and a private community.

El Paso will also soon be home to

another innovative new project that reinforces our community’s prominence in water management, as this week marks the groundbreaking for the TechH2O Water Resource Learning Center. This \$7.6 million education complex, funded in part by federal dollars, will showcase the science behind the desalination process in a way people of all ages can understand and appreciate, while facilitating technology transfer among scientists and water resources professionals.

TechH2O will be state-of-the-art, with impressive exhibits, a beautiful 250-seat auditorium, and a communications room with the latest in video conferencing. The facility and its programs will be a great asset to El Paso Water Utilities, researchers,

students and teachers, and the El Paso community as a whole.

It will showcase membrane technology and the desalination process. Its interactive exhibits, displays, and demonstration projects will explore four themes — the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem, the Hueco and Mesilla Bolsons, the Rio Grande, and alternative water resources. El Paso Water Utilities is working with local school districts to develop science curricula based on the TechH2O exhibits.

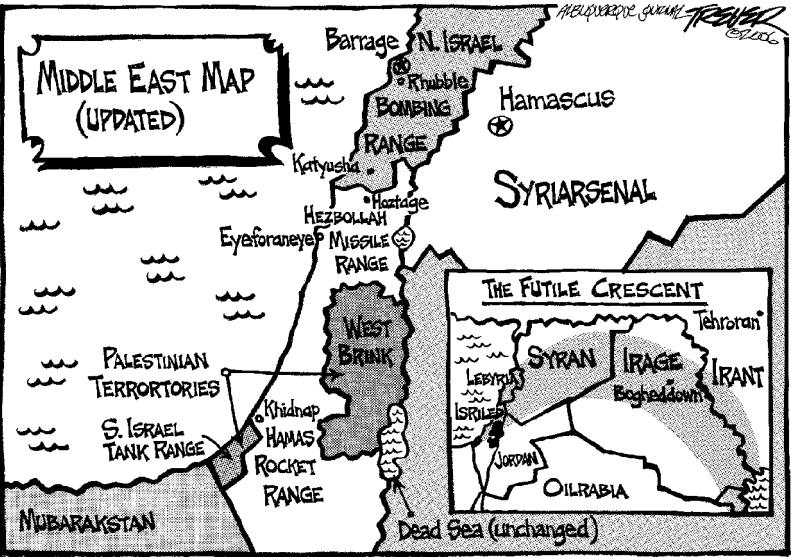
TechH2O will open in summer 2007, and this new facility, along with the desalination plant itself, will be a great testament to the leadership and collaboration that exists within El Paso. I commend the PSB and Chair Fermin Acosta, El Paso Water Utilities and General Manager Ed Archuleta, the UTEP and President Diana Natalicio, and Fort Bliss for all their hard work in getting this very impressive project started.

Partnerships like these are so important, and are also evident in the evolution of the desalination plant. I

worked to help secure \$26 million in funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and \$3 million in military construction funding for the plant. El Paso Water Utilities also provided \$58 million.

The plant will increase fresh water production for El Paso by 25 percent based on current demand, and ensure El Paso and Fort Bliss will have sufficient clean water for growth and development for 50 years and beyond. The availability of fresh water is a serious problem for El Paso, and this project is a realization of a vision and a dream for future generations of El Pasoans.

As we have seen with the flooding here in El Paso, preparation, collaboration and partnerships are key, and we must invest in long-term plans for the safety and well-being of our community. The Desalination Plant and TechH2O Water Resource Learning Center are important steps we are taking to ensure future generations of El Pasoans will have safe, clean water. I look forward to our continued work together, and for the opening of both of these valuable facilities.



Haciendas Del Norte Water Improvement District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Haciendas Del Norte Water Improvement District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2006 on August 31, 2006 at 13931 Sagebrush Circle, El Paso, Texas 79938 at 6:30 pm. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal:	Frank Wood, Jim Funk, Robert Lucero, Daniel Diaz, Joseph McCandless
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.373053	\$0.337532
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		(\$0.035521)
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		-9.522%
Average appraised value	\$ 132,017	\$ 143,261
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled persons exemptions)	0	0
Average taxable value	\$ 132,017	\$ 143,261
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 492.49	\$ 483.55
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		- (\$8.94)
and percentage of increase (+/-)		- 1.82%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

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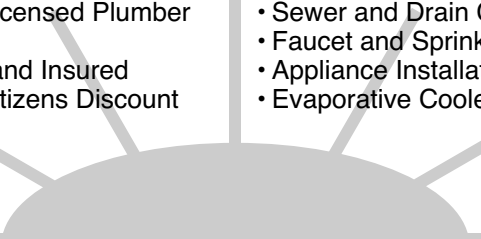
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Lions Club and Western Hills UMC donate supplies to Canutillo kids

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — The Upper Valley Lions Club and Western Hills United Methodist Church teamed up to provide school supplies to 200 students in the Canutillo Independent School District who were affected by the recent flooding. Members from both organizations volunteered during the first week of school to help sort and distribute the supplies.

“We are working with all our families to be sure they have what they need, but first and foremost, students need to come to school where there is a familiar and supportive routine,” said Dr. Pam Padilla, CISD Superintendent. “Because of the support and donations provided by the Upper Valley Lions Club, our students were able to attend school on time and with appropriate supplies,” she added.

Since Aug. 1, members of the Upper Valley Lions Club have worked many volunteer hours with the school district helping flood victims, provid-



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

SLEEVES ROLLED UP — Members of the Upper Valley Lions Club and Western Hills United Methodist Church (WHUMC) sort school supplies in preparation for distribution. From left are Melanie Jones, Mary Dix, Kiko Dix, Alicia Armstrong, Jane LaGrone (WHUMC Director Sidewalk Sunday School), Frances Cherry, Barbara Dorris, and Suzette Zaboroski.

ing several hundred dollars worth of bottled water, blankets, sheets, towels, socks and toiletries.

In addition to providing school supplies, members of the Western Hills United Methodist Church have volunteered their time to the CISD

to help sort and distribute food and clothing items to those affected by the floods.

For information about either of these organizations and to find out where donations of additional school supplies are accepted, call 494-3153.

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology Programs at Fabens ISD

- 1) Fabens Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in Home Economics, Business Education, Drafting, Graphic Arts, and Automotive Technology. Admission to these programs is based on courses offered, age appropriateness, class space available, and individual graduation plans.
- 2) It is the policy of Fabens Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 3) It is the policy of Fabens Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- 4) Fabens Independent School District will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- 5) For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator: Gilbert Alarcon, 208 N.E. 4th St., (915) 764-4353 and/or Section 504 Coordinator: Jose Cervantes, 821 N.E. G Ave., (915) 764-2025.

Notificacion Publica de no Discriminar en los Programas de Carrera y Tecnologia de Fabens ISD

- 1) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens ofrece programas programas vocacionales en Carrera y Tecnología en Economía Domestica, Educación de Negocios, y Mecánica. La admisión a estos programas se basa en registrado en la escuela de Fabens y completar los requisitos necesarios.
- 2) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios, o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, que fue enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendada.
- 3) Es norma de El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens no discriminar por motivos raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como requieren el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda, Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmienda, y la Sección 504 de la Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.
- 4) El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Fabens tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua inglés no sea obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas vocacionales y educativos.
- 5) Para más información sobre sus derechos y procedimiento para quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX: Gilbert Alarcon, 208 N.E. 4th St., (915) 764-4353 y/o Coordinador de la Sección 504: Jose Cervantes, 821 N.E. G Ave., (915) 764-2025.



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

LAYING BY FOR WINTER — Americas High School students collected and organized donations in preparation to deliver supplies to the Salvation Army to restock after recent flooding.

Socorro ISD high schools collect for flood victims

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Students from Socorro ISD high schools are reaching out and helping area families following last week's storms. Socorro High School's Media Tech and Student Council are coordinating Storm 2006 Fund Raiser. Students are asking fellow classmates to donate \$1 and teachers to \$5 in hopes of collecting \$4000 which will go to the West Texas/New Mexico Flood Relief.

Socorro's High School Firefighters' Club will be conducting its own Boot Drive to raise money and clothes for families. The ROTC program at this high school in the Mission Valley is also collecting non-perishable food items for the next week to deliver to area families, the American Red

Cross and Food Bank. Donations can be dropped at the ROTC office or call 937-2063.

Montwood High School, 12000 Montwood, will also be collecting items for families affected by the storm. Items will be accepted until the end of the month at high school's activities office.

The following items are being requested:

Baby wipes, bottled water, cleaning supplies, non-perishable food items, dry baby formulas, diapers, aspirin, Tylenol, blankets, personal hygiene products, and new and used clothing for adults, babies and children.

If you want to donate to the high school programs you can contact either Laura Price at Montwood High School (937-2465 or lprice@sisd.net) or Carmen Alvarado at Socorro High School at (937-2134 or clucer01@sisd.net).

To Advertise

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— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

THREE’S NO CROWD — Sammy Dominguez, Fernie Ibarra, and Syria Alvidrez help make up the District 1 Skills USA team of officers. It’s the first time San Elizario High School has had three officers in the same year for Skills USA.

San Eli trio looking to make a difference in 2006-2007

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Fernie Ibarra, a senior at San Elizario High School, has been racking up the frequent flyer miles, thanks to his participation in Skills USA. Whether he was strolling through a terminal in Austin or representing the state of Texas in Kansas City, by the time Ibarra graduates in 2007, he will have represented San Elizario High School 11 times as Skills USA District 1 President.

“He’s the first District 1 president from San Elizario,” said Sylvia Rubalcaba, who assists in the high school print shop and helps students involved in Skills USA.

Ibarra is fresh off his latest trip, the Skills USA National Competition in Kansas City, and while having a title is one thing, he wants to make sure that other students in San Elizario and the rest of District 1 will be able to experience the atmosphere and camaraderie he felt during his time in Missouri.

“I want as many (District 1) officers to experience that,” Ibarra said. “We have the talent to compete at the national level.”

Consider Sammy Dominguez and

Syria Alvidrez proof of that talent. With Ibarra, the trio gives San Elizario High School three district officers for Skills USA, the most the school has ever had. Both placed at the state competition last spring, with Alvidrez taking third in Community Service and Dominguez winning the state pin design competition. In fact, it will be Dominguez’ design that people will see and wear throughout the year, including the state competition in Corpus Christi and in Kansas City for nationals again. He was one of the few who placed first from El Paso during the state competition.

“They’ve gone through the leadership and they are qualified,” said Jose Olivas, Advertising and Graphic Design instructor at San Elizario High School. “Now we have to find a way to get them there. It’s a good opportunity for them to see other parts of the world.”

There are roughly 500 students throughout El Paso County who participate in Skills USA, including about 70 from San Elizario High School. Skills USA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

Eight Socorro ISD schools eligible for State Excellence Award

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Texas Education Agency has announced eight Socorro Independent School District schools are eligible for the Texas Educator Excellence Award program.

The selected schools are Desert Wind Elementary, Elfida P. Chavez Elementary, Hueco Elementary, O’Shea Keleher Elementary, Robert R. Rojas Elementary, Salvador H. Sanchez Middle, Socorro Middle and Sun Ridge Middle. Grants will be awarded based on the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students and high levels of achievement or growth in student achievement. Only schools with a rating of exemplary or recognized may participate in the grant application.

“These campuses are eligible because of their performance on the TAKS test, more specifically because

of their progress or increases in TAKS scores,” says Antonio Baca, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education. “The grant can be used for incentives, staff development and other instructional programs.”

Applications for this non-competitive grant are due Oct. 5, 2006. Each qualifying campus is eligible for an annual grant award ranging between \$60,000 and \$220,000, depending on the size of the student population at the eligible campus. A total of approximately \$100 million is available for funding the Governor’s Educator Excellence Award Program ñ Texas Educator Excellence Grant. This project is funded 100 percent from state funds, House Bill 1, Enacted in the Third Session of the 79th Legislative Session, Subchapter N, Awards for Student Achievement.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Anthony Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 29, 2006 in the Board Room, Anthony Middle School Cafeteria, 610 Sixth Street, Anthony, 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	\$0.175000/\$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	4.63% (increase)
Debt Service	2.78% (decrease)
Total Expenditures	5.54% (increase)

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

	<u>Preceeding Tax Year</u>	<u>Current Tax Year</u>
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 126,458,732	\$ 144,850,117
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 2,510,919	\$ 3,202,727
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 89,235,184	\$ 103,313,790
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 2,370,925	\$ 3,174,067

* “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* \$4,675,999

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with last Year’s Rates

	<u>Maintenance & Operation</u>	<u>Interest & Sinking Fund*</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>State Revenue Per Student</u>
Last Year’s Rate	\$ 1.500000	\$ 0.200000*	\$ 1.700000	\$ 2,014	\$6,441
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.330050	\$ 0.175000*	\$ 1.505050	\$1,932	\$ 6,409
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.370050	\$ 0.175000*	\$ 1.545050	\$2,015	\$ 6,715

*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

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 59,559	\$ 67,410
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 44,386	\$ 49,892
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.700000	\$ 1.550000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 754.56	\$ 770.83
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 16.27

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 1.545050. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.545050.

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)	\$ 900,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ -0-

SEISD set to open Adult Education Programs

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Just



— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

TEACH THE PARENTS, HELP THE KIDS — The Adult Education Program in San Elizario allows the adult community to take advantage of ESL, GED, Literacy, and Computer classes, refining some of the skills needed to help their children succeed.

because students throughout the San Elizario Independent School District began going back to class on Aug. 14 doesn't mean that their par-

ents and other community members won't be going back to school, too. That's because the Adult Education Program is set to begin its own school year, according to Josie Campos, Adult Education Program Facilitator.

Beginning Aug. 28 this year adults in the community are invited to participate in ESL and GED classes from 6-8 p.m. ESL classes will take place at Excell Academy, 13725 Socorro Rd. Meanwhile, the GED class will take place next door at Loya Primary School, 13705 Socorro Rd. in Portable 5. A morning GED class is available for those who cannot participate in the evening GED class, Campos said. This class is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. in the same location.

Literacy classes will also be offered to the adult community in San Elizario beginning Sept. 5 at Borrego

Elementary. Instruction for this class will be offered for those who have minimal competency in reading, writing, and who are proficient in the English language. The class is scheduled to meet Monday through Thursday at 8:30 a.m. but will start on Tuesday, Sept. 5 because of Labor Day.

On Sept. 6, the Adult Education Program begins its computer classes for beginners, intermediate, and advanced users. Classes will be held Wednesday through Friday from 9-12:30 p.m. at Loya Primary in Portable 7. An evening computer class will be held on Mondays beginning Sept. 11 from 6-8 p.m. Campos said that if this class fills up, there is a possibility that another class will become available.

For more information on Adult Education Classes, contact Josie Campos at 872-3939 ext. 3646.

Tidwell

From Page 1

10th year and Tidwell's seventh at the school. Tidwell who has been at the school as a teacher, assistant principal and principal recalls her journey to her current position and feels her experiences there gives her a sense of ownership.

"I decided that I really needed to change. I wanted to go into administration after having been on one campus for 14 years. I transferred here as a teacher when the school opened in July until April when an AP position became available," she recalls. "I was fortunate and promoted to assistant principal. I spent two years and here then transferred to an elementary for two years and middle school for a year and then the principal position became available here."

With 26 years in the Socorro district, Tidwell credits her mother, a kindergarten teacher, and Socorro administrators for helping her reach her goals.

"I used to go and help her with her classroom like other teachers' children do, I always had fun, played school a lot as a child and then I had some great teachers throughout my education. A lot of them had a strong influence on me," she says. "I also had excellent mentors and I do attribute where I am today to those people."

She recommends others to be involved in a variety of programs, to take risks and volunteer.

"Mr. Neito was the principal and he afforded me the opportunity to get involved and do all those things and that definitely helped me grow and helped me know that I really want to do this and feel confident that I could do it," Tidwell says.

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2006 Property Tax Rates in Town of Horizon City

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **Town of Horizon City**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$886,226
Last year's debt taxes	122,183
Last year's total taxes	1,008,409
Last year's tax base	325,293,226
Last year's total tax rate	0.310000/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$1,008,159
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	343,450,954
=This year's effective operating rate	0.230667/\$100
Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings	0.230667/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$886,006
+This year's adjusted tax base	343,450,954
=This year's effective operating rate	0.257972/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.278609/\$100
+This year's debt rate	0.029485/\$100
-This year's rollback rate	0.308094/\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	0.077427/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	0.230667/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Horizon City** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the rollback rate of **\$0.230667** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2005 taxes by **\$105,327**.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$1,208,137
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

SCHEDULE B — 2006 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
SIB Loan (Paving)	\$30,845	\$3,441	\$-0-	\$34,286
C Lease (Computers)	20,283	2,313	-0-	22,596
Gov't. Cap. (Vehicle)	4,561	1,020	-0-	5,581
Ford (Vehicle)	7,927	424	-0-	8,351
Bond Service	29,812	14,813	-0-	44,625

Total required for 2006 debt service	\$115,439
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006	115,439
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	\$115,439

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector

Date prepared: August 8, 2006

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2006 Property Tax Rates in El Paso County Emergency Services District #2

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #2**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$1,809,259
Last year's debt taxes	-0-
Last year's total taxes	1,809,259
Last year's tax base	1,885,253,571
Last year's total tax rate	0.095969/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$1,798,065
+This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	2,012,083,764
=This year's effective operating rate	0.089363/\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$1,798,065
+This year's adjusted tax base	2,012,083,764
=This year's effective operating rate	0.089363/\$100
x1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.096512/\$100
+This year's debt rate	0.000000/\$100
=This year's rollback rate	0.096512/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **El Paso County Emergency Services District #2** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.089363** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2005 taxes by **\$102,829**.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O)	\$-0-
Debt Service (I&S)	-0-

SCHEDULE B — 2006 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
NONE	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-

Total required for 2006 debt service	\$-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources	-0-
-Excess collections last year	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006	-0-
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006	-0-
=Total Debt Levy	-0-

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.

Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector

Date prepared: August 7, 2006



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

Tetrahedron kites take flight in Canutillo

UPPER VALLEY — Students at Deanna Davenport Elementary School who attended Summer Science Camp in June and July were pleased that the weather cooperated with just the right breezy conditions for the test flights of their homemade tetrahedron kites. Kites were made with string, straws and tissue paper. Students experimented with different methods of tying the kite string to determine which method resulted in the best flying kite.

— Contributed by Kim Guzman

Operation Bounce to target hot check writers

By Elhiu Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — The El Paso County Attorney José Rodríguez, El Paso Sheriff Leo Samaniego, County Constables and members of several other law enforcement agencies announced the implementation of Operation Bounce on Aug. 9, a major initiative directed towards the prosecution and collection of money from hot check writers.

The operation began on Sunday, Aug. 13 with the publication of the more than 4,500 names of individuals with theft by check outstanding warrants, representing almost \$4 million dollars.

The publication of the list marks the start of a two-week amnesty period during which the hot check writers may avoid arrest and criminal prosecution if they voluntarily pay off their hot-check balances at the El Paso County Courthouse.

During this period, the Hot Check payment windows at the County Attorney’s Office, 500 E. San Anto-

nio, room 503, will remain open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Individuals must pay the exact amount due. Change is not available at the windows. Payments can be made by money order, cashiers checks, cash in exact amount only, or Visa and Master Card credit cards.

No debit or check cards will be accepted.

Operation Bounce will begin immediately after the end of the amnesty period, on Aug. 26. Deputies from the Sheriff Office, the County Constables, and several other local law enforcement agencies will start a countywide arrest warrant round-up. The round-up will consist of officers going out and arresting hot-check writers at their homes or place of employment.

During a similar operation conducted earlier this year with the El Paso Police Department, the County Attorney’s Office recovered more than \$180,000 for local business. Still it currently has almost 5,000 outstanding hot check warrants that represent around \$3.95 million owed to

local merchants. “Although it has been decreasing over the years, theft by check is still a serious problem in our community. Local small businesses often face financial difficulties because of their losses from hot checks,” said Rodríguez.

“Operation Bounce is just one of several initiatives from our office directed towards decreasing this problem in our community. We are making it easier for merchants to report hot checks; we are giving them electronic access to their accounts 24 hours a day, seven days a week to find out about any payments made to their account. And we are getting ready to begin a ‘most wanted’ type of program for hot check writers,” he explained.

For more information regarding hot check payments and balances contact the El Paso County Attorney’s Office Hot Check Unit at 546-2051.

The complete and updated list of individuals with theft by check outstanding warrants has been posted in the El Paso County web site at www.epcounty.com

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2006 Property Tax Rates in City of Socorro

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **City of Socorro**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes _____	\$2,138,568
Last year’s debt taxes _____	495,224
Last year’s total taxes _____	2,633,792
Last year’s tax base _____	535,765,693
Last year’s total tax rate _____	0.491594/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$2,631,783
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	573,549,434
=This year’s effective tax rate _____	0.458858/\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	\$2,136,936
+This year’s adjusted tax base _____	573,549,434
=This year’s effective operating rate _____	0.372581/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	0.402387/\$100
+This year’s debt rate _____	0.079795/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate _____	0.482182/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **City of Socorro** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.458858** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2005 taxes by **\$188,500**.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O) _____	\$2,946,516
Debt Service (I&S) _____	1,134

SCHEDULE B — 2006 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
1999 Cert. Oblig.	\$100,000	\$36,053	\$482	\$136,535
2001 Cert. Oblig.	17,100	24,302	500	41,902
FNB-PD Cars	25,567	1,237	-0-	26,804
FNB-Pothole Patcher	19,382	1,191	-0-	20,573
State Infrastructure #1	87,457	7,683	-0-	95,140
State Infrastructure #2	-0-	12,103	-0-	12,103
Park and Ride	6,000	-0-	2,000	8,000
2004 Cert. Oblig.	72,000	77,730	-0-	149,730
PSB	10	-0-	-0-	10
Total required for 2006 debt service _____	\$490,796			
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____	-0-			
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____	-0-			
-Excess collections last year _____	-0-			
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006 _____	490,796			
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006 _____	-0-			
=Total Debt Levy _____	\$490,796			

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.
Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: August 7, 2006

NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

2006 Property Tax Rates in Town of Anthony

This notice concerns 2006 property tax rates for the **Town of Anthony**. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:	
Last year’s operating taxes _____	\$216,483
Last year’s debt taxes _____	196,519
Last year’s total taxes _____	413,002
Last year’s tax base _____	87,005,305
Last year’s total tax rate _____	0.474686/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) _____	\$412,947
+This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) _____	95,343,990
=This year’s effective tax rate _____	0.433112/\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year’s rollback tax rate:	
Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) _____	\$216,455
+This year’s adjusted tax base _____	95,343,990
=This year’s effective operating rate _____	0.227025/\$100
x1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate _____	0.245187/\$100
+This year’s debt rate _____	0.195593/\$100
=This year’s rollback rate _____	0.440780/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If the **Town of Anthony** adopts a 2006 tax rate equal to the effective rate of **\$0.433112** per \$100 of value, taxes would **increase** compared to 2005 taxes by **\$11,314**.

SCHEDULE A — Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operation (M&O) _____	\$227,884
Debt Service (I&S) _____	21,000

SCHEDULE B — 2006 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
1974 Bonds DS	\$7,000	\$2,869	\$-0-	\$9,869
SIB Loan #2	36,214	11,441	-0-	47,655
2002 Bonds DS	99,000	9,769	-0-	108,769
2002 Cert. Oblig.	15,000	10,328	-0-	25,328

Total required for 2006 debt service _____	\$191,621
-Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A _____	-0-
-Amount (if any) paid from other resources _____	-0-
-Excess collections last year _____	-0-
=Total to be paid from taxes in 2006 _____	191,621
+Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2006 _____	-0-
=Total Debt Levy _____	\$191,621

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rate calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at the City of El Paso Tax Office located at the intersection of Durango and Franklin streets.
Name of person preparing this notice: Juan F. Sandoval
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date prepared: August 7, 2006

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Clint Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 29, 2006 in the Central Administration Board Room, 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928. **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	\$1.370100/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.315000/\$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	9% (increase)
Debt Service	29% (increase)
Total Expenditures	11% (increase)

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 676,827,840	\$ 810,511,461
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 54,707,195	\$ 86,996,630
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 535,354,388	\$ 650,967,919
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 51,788,245	\$ 67,852,981

* “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* \$69,589,776

* 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	\$ 0.210000*	\$ 1.710000	\$ 999	\$5,781
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.330100	\$ 0.315000*	\$ 1.645100	\$1,029	\$6,057
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.370100	\$ 0.315000*	\$ 1.685100	\$1,074	\$6,763

*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	\$ 60,304	\$ 69,249
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 45,099	\$ 51,816
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.710000	\$ 1.685100
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 771.19	\$ 873.13
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 101.94

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 1.685100. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.685100.

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)	\$12,926,623
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ -0-

Briefs

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on Wednesday, August 23, 2006. Schools that start at 7:45 a.m. will be released at 12 noon. Schools that start at 8:00 a.m. will be released at 12:15 p.m. High schools will be released at 1:00 p.m.

■ There are presently three positions for election for Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees. Each of these positions is a three-year term. The positions up for election are currently held by Sergio Coronado, Rafael Reyes and Yvonne S. Sanchez. Anyone wanting to run for office has until 5 p.m. on Aug. 29, 2006 to file application for a place on the ballot at the District’s Administrative Offices, 7965 Arcraft Rd.

■ The First Baptist Church of Horizon City, located at 17018 Darrington Rd., will be having a kick-off for their Wednesday Night Children’s Program on Aug. 30 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Called FaithWeaver Friends, the program focuses on children ages pre-school through 5th grade. There will be snacks and drinks for everyone, games, face painting, a jumping balloon. The registration allows parents to sign up their children, take a look at the program, preview the curriculum and ask questions. Get more information at <http://fbchorizon.org/> or by calling 852-3027.

■ Socorro High School Class of 1996 will hold their reunion on Sunday, Sept. 3 at 1914 Lounge on 115 Durango, from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. For information, e-mail socorroclassof96.com

■ The Student Council of San Elizario High School is currently accepting nominations for the Outstanding Ex-Student for 2006. Candidates should have graduated from San Elizario High School prior to 1996 and should have achieved success in a chosen field of endeavor. Honored Ex will be expected to attend Homecoming activities on Friday, Oct. 6. To nominate an individual, submit a letter to the SEHS Student Council, P.O. Box 920, San Elizario, TX 79849, prior to Sept. 15, 2006. Letter should include information about the individual’s high school achievements as well as details about post secondary education and career. Also include address and phone number for the nominee as well as the name and phone number of the person submitting the nomination.

■ Students at several Socorro ISD campuses will be celebrating Homecoming festivities in the upcoming weeks.

- Socorro High School will begin its celebration the week of Sept. 11 and host Eastwood High School for its Homecoming game on Friday, Sept.15.
- Americas High School will commemorate its 10th Anniversary during Homecoming events

the week of Sept. 18. The school will celebrate its anniversary on Thursday, Sept. 21 and go against Hanks High School for its Homecoming game on Friday, Sept. 22.

- Montwood High School will hold its Homecoming event on Friday, Oct. 13 with its game against Americas High School.
- El Dorado High School students will have Pride Week starting on Sept. 11-Sept. 16. The school will have pep rallies and parades as part of their pride week celebration.

■ Socorro High School is currently seeking nominations for its 2006 Outstanding Ex. The Outstanding Ex will take part in the various Homecoming events scheduled for the week of Sept. 11, including the Homecoming game on Friday, Sept. 15, at the Student Activities Complex. Nominations must include the person’s graduating year, current profession, and current contact information. Contact the Student Activities Center at 937-2134 to submit nominations or seek more information. Deadline for nominations is Thursday, Aug. 31.

■ Canutillo High School Homecoming Committee is accepting nominations for the 2006 Outstanding Ex Award. CHS Homecoming Week celebration will be Sept. 18-23, with the varsity football game scheduled at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 22, against Santa Teresa High School. During homecoming week, a variety of activities are scheduled including a parade, bonfire, and coronation of the homecoming court. The outstanding ex is the special guest at the activities held during homecoming week. To nominate a CHS graduate for outstanding ex consideration, call 877-7482 or mail information to CISD Public Information Office, P.O. Box 100, Canutillo, Texas 79835. Nominations must be received by Sept. 4.

■ Each year more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm or hurricane related hazard. Most of these deaths are due to careless or unsuspecting motorists who attempt to navigate through flooded roads. While it seems unusual that a desert climate like El Paso should concern itself with flooding, the recent rainstorms have proven this region is not exempt from associated dangers. El Paso Fire Dept. spokesman Lt. Mario E. Hernandez offers these safety tips:

- Head to higher ground if flooding is suspected.
- Avoid walking in areas with rapid flowing water — it takes only six inches to be swept off your feet.
- Never let children play in flooded areas; flooded areas hide hazards like sink holes.
- Never drive through flowing water — it takes only two feet of flowing water to float away most cars.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave immediately and seek higher ground.
- Sandbags are available at all Fire Stations and are free to the public.

Act quickly to prevent mold growth after flooding conditions

By Janie Harris
Special to the Courier

When the power goes off during hot, humid conditions it is difficult to avoid an explosion of mold growth. Mold growth is common after flooding or water damage.

Under the right conditions, molds produce spores that spread easily through the air and form new mold growths known as colonies. These conditions include moisture, nutrients — which can be nearly anything organic — and a place to grow. Mold can damage your home, possessions and health. The longer you allow mold to grow, the greater the risk and the more difficult the cleanup.

As soon as it is safe to return home, begin cleaning and drying your home and possessions.

Usually you do not need to have the mold tested; such tests are rarely useful to answer questions about health concerns. However, some insurance companies and legal services may require sampling for documentation.

The best way to avoid mold hazards is to hire a reputable firm that is licensed and trained in dealing with water damage and mold remediation. As that may be difficult after a disaster, you may have to do the cleanup yourself. If so, follow the steps below.

After a flood

First take an inventory. Compile a room-by-room inventory of missing or damaged goods, and include prices, manufacturer’s names, and dates and places of purchases. Take photographs to document the damages for insurance purposes.

Dry all wet materials as quickly as possible. If possible, use air conditioning or heat with fans and dehumidifiers. If you have no power and can get access to a generator, use the generator to run a dehumidifier indoors to help remove moisture from the air. New mold colonies can form in as little as three days if materials stay wet. Even if the wood and other materials look dry, they can still be wet enough to support regrowth.

Remove wet carpeting right away. It’s best to discard wet carpeting. If you do salvage it, clean, disinfect and dry it quickly. Never reuse flooded padding.

Cut away wet wallboard and remove all damp insulation immediately. Even if the wallboard appears to be dry, wet insulation stays wet for too long, allowing the growth of hidden, unhealthy mold and decay fungi inside the walls.

Clean items with nonphosphate

detergents. Any phosphate residue is mold food. If you disinfect them, follow the directions carefully and never mix bleach with ammonia or acids, such as vinegar. Although disinfectants can kill molds, they do not prevent regrowth.

Do all you can to speed the drying of subfloors, slabs and wall framing before replacing insulation, wallboard and flooring. Use air conditioning, heaters, fans or, better yet, a dehumidifier. Contractors that specialize in water damage restoration have special equipment (dehumidifying blowers)that can provide the fastest drying.

Use a moisture meter to test the moisture content of studs and sheathing if possible before replacing insulation. Wood-products specialists recommend that wood have no more than 14 percent moisture by weight before you close the wall.

DO NOT use vinyl wallpaper. It will prevent further drying on the inside.

Mold cleanup guidelines

Minimize your exposure during cleanup. People are exposed to mold by breathing spores or fragments. They can also be exposed through skin contact.

Wear gloves and a mask (N-95 or better)or a respirator to filter out mold spores. If you are sensitive to mold, wear splash goggles to help protect your eyes. Wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy shoes.

Isolate the work area and ventilate it to outdoors. Because disturbing mold colonies can cause a massive release of spores, seal off the contaminated area from the rest of the house. If the power is on, use a fan to send air to the outdoors. If you have no power, ventilate the area if the outside humidity level is not above 60 percent.

Remove and discard moldy materials. Porous materials that are moldy or sewage-contaminated should be removed, bagged and thrown away. This includes paper, insulation, plaster, carpet, carpet padding, ceiling tiles, gypsum wallboard and processed wood products. To minimize the spread of spores, cover the moldy material with plastic to contain the spores before removal.

Items that can be cleaned in a washing machine likely can be saved, depending on how long the mold has been growing on them. Extended periods of mold or mildew growth may stain them.

Discard upholstered fabric furniture if it has been in a flood. If it has only surface mold on it, you might

ance, has been exhausted. Eligible organizations include state agencies and authorities, local governments and Indian tribes or tribal organizations.

- Certain private, non-profit organizations eligible for Public Assistance include educational, utility, medical and emergency groups.

Even as the relief became available, El Paso County was once again under heavy weather advisories with flash floods a distinct possibility through the week.

be able to clean it outdoors by letting the mold dry in the sun and then cleaning it with a HEPA-filtered vacuum.

Clean all surfaces. Surface mold can usually be cleaned from nonporous materials such as hard plastic, concrete, glass, metal and solid wood. The cleaning must remove — not just kill — the mold because dead spores can still cause health problems.

After cleaning, you may choose to use a disinfectant to kill any mold missed by the cleaning. In the case of sewage contamination, you must disinfect. Use 1 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water solution.

Always handle bleach with cau-

tion. Never mix it with ammonia; test on a small area before treatment.

Do not use bleach in the air system. Instead, use milder, less corrosive disinfectants such as alcohols, disinfecting cleaners and hydrogen peroxide.

You may wish to consult a specialist if you are unsure about how to clean an item, or if the item is expensive or of sentimental value. Phone books often have listings of specialists in furniture repair, restoration, painting, art restoration and conservation, carpet and rug cleaning, water damage, and fire or water restoration. Look for specialists who are affiliated with professional orga-

nizations. Be sure to ask for and check references.

Remain on mold alert. Continue looking for signs of moisture or new mold growth. If the mold returns, repeat the cleaning and consider using speed drying equipment and moisture meters. Regrowth may signal that the material was not dry enough or should be removed. Wait to rebuild and refurnish until all the affected materials have dried completely.

Adapted from “Avoiding Mold Hazards in Your Flooded Home” by Claudette Hanks Reichel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Louisiana State University Ag Center.

Public Notice Fabens Independent School District

SECTION 504 SERVICES

The Fabens Independent School District provides the following educational services/options to identified disabled students who reside within the district.

- ◆ Child find activities to notify disabled students and their parents of the their rights and the district’s obligation to provide a free, appropriate public education.
- ◆ Referrals to Sections 504 when it is believed the students have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and the students are in need of educational accommodations.
- ◆ Procedural safeguards under Section 504.
- ◆ Evaluations of students to determine eligibility for the Section 504 program.
- ◆ Placement into the Section 504 program, which means the student could receive:
 - ✓ individually planned modifications in the regular classroom,
 - ✓ transportation services to and from school,
 - ✓ health services from the school nurse,
 - ✓ accommodations regarding access to any part of the campus, or
 - ✓ assistance in reading for students with dyslexia in a reading program which meets the state’s standards for a dyslexia reading program.
- ◆ Special education services are available to Section 504 students, if the students qualify for one of the specific disabilities under special education.

If you would like more information to know of a disabled child who is not receiving educational services, please contact Jose Cervantes, Section 504 Coordinator, P.O. Box 697/821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838, (915) 764-3138.

SERVICIOS DE LA SECCION 504

El distrito escolar independiente de Fabens provee los siguientes servicios/ opciones educativas a los estudiantes con discapacidades identificados que residen dentro del distrito.

- ◆ *Actividades para encontrar a ninos para notificar a los estudiantes con discapacidades y a sus padres de sus derechos y de las obligaciones del distrito a proporcionar una educación publica que sea gratuita y apropiada.*
- ◆ *Referimientos a la Sección 504 cuando se cree que el estudiante tiene una discapacidad mental o fisica que limita substancialmente una o mas actividades vitales importantes y los estudiantes necesitan modificaciones en su educación.*
- ◆ *Derechos legales garantizados bajo Sección 504.*
- ◆ *Evaluaciones de estudiantes para determinar si califican para el programa de la Sección 504.*
- ◆ *Colocación dentro del programa de la Sección 504, lo que significa que el estudiante puede recibir:*
 - ✓ *modificaciones en el salon de educación regular planeadas individualmente,*
 - ✓ *servicios de transporte para la escuela y para atras,*
 - ✓ *servicios de salud por la enfermera de la escuela,*
 - ✓ *cambios que garanticen el acceso a cualquier parte de la escuela,*
 - ✓ *ayuda en lectura para estudiantes con dislexia en un programa de lectura que cumpla con los requisitos que pide el estado a un programa de lectura de dislexia.*
- ◆ *Se ofrecen servicios de educación especial a los estudiantes Sección 504, si los estudiantes califican para una de las discapacidades especificas bajo educación especial.*

Si usted desea más información o conoce a niños con discapacidades que no estan recibiendo servicios educativos, por favor comuniquese con Jose Cervantes, Coordinador de la Sección 504, P.O. Box 697/821 NE “G” Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838, (915) 764-3138.

WTXCC: 08/17/06

Aid

From Page 1

Commission and provides benefits for up to 26 weeks after a disaster declaration to persons who lose their jobs due directly to the disaster.

- Public Assistance provides funding for repairing or restoring government facilities. Funds are made available once all other means of funding, including insur-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Tornillo Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 29, 2006 in the TISD Administration Building, 19200 Cobb Ave., Tornillo, 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	\$1.370100/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.265200/\$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	7% (increase)
Debt Service	2.9% (increase)
Total Expenditures	6.7% (increase)

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 52,315,850	\$ 53,665,192
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 661,688	\$ 712,180
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 41,802,615	\$ 43,135,819
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 603,138	\$ 678,947

* “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* \$8,844,991

* 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	\$ 0.199000*	\$ 1.699900	\$ 607	\$7,379
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.330100	\$ 0.265300*	\$ 1.595400	\$ 543	\$7,370
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.370100	\$ 0.265200*	\$ 1.635300	\$ 562	\$6,978

*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	\$ 31,497	\$ 33,880
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 16,480	\$ 18,545
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.699000	\$ 1.635300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 280.00	\$ 303.27
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 23.27

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 1.635315. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.635315.

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)	\$ 5,402,915
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 44,568

What’s up, doc? By Albert Balesh, M.D.

Skin Deep

(Part 1)

From pimples to elephant men, the gamut is vast, but the terrain is the same. Skin is as deep as you need go, to discover what lurks beneath. More than a mere peephole, the integument provides a panoramic view to the internist bent on providing appropriate diagnosis, treatment, or referral to a dermatologist. So, let’s dive in, but keep it simple. The terminology is long and romantic, but, while tongues twist, principles are relatively straightforward. Observation is the name of the game, my dear Watson.

As we open the window to the inner workings of our biologic machinery, we note that skin manifestations can be associated with cutaneous, oncologic, cardiovascular, pulmonary, rheumatic, gastrointestinal, endocrine, and metabolic disorders. One size does not fit all, however, and it is the astute and patient clinician who brings order to the chaos of sameness. For while a blemish may mean house arrest for a testosterone-charged adolescent, it can signify something far more sinister for those whose middle years have been breached. Shakespeare called the same entity by many names. Today we give many names to different entities that may all look the same.

Enough of the cryptic, it’s on to the concrete. Whether we call it seborrheic dermatitis, seborrheic keratosis, urticaria, erythema multiforme, vitiligo, or erythema nodosum, we must concede that something is “rotten in Denmark.” While the hard, warty plaques of seborrheic keratosis may warrant a deeper look for an underlying adenocarcinoma of the gastrointestinal tract, the depigmented skin patches of vitiligo are no less important, serving as beacons to illuminate possible cases of thyroid disease, diabetes mellitus, pernicious anemia, or Addison’s disease (insufficiency of the adrenal gland). And who hasn’t seen the fluid-filled, cutaneous bubbles of urticaria, commonly known as hives, brought on

by penicillin, sulfa drugs, aspirin, shellfish, nuts, and chocolate.

We never forget our first kiss, the prom, that sleek, new hot-rod we hid from our parents, or the unexpected roll in the hay on a warm, summer night. No less memorable, for those in their crosshairs, are the cutaneous metastases of buried cancers of the breast, colon, lung, and genitourinary tract. Their slumber and our relative complacency is often disturbed by the sprouting of epidermoid cysts and plaques that demand our attention when the cause may already be lost. And what of acanthosis nigricans, whose bark may or may not be as big as its bite? While its smooth, hard, velvet-like, skin plaques in the groin, axillae, and neck areas may warrant alarm and a trip to the barrister to put one’s affairs in order, due to its association with abdominal cancer, it may be caused by something much less injurious such as obesity, insulin-resistant diabetes, or systemic corticosteroids.

As children, we crossed our hearts and hoped to die when we made assertions requiring blind credence on the part of an audience. Nothing bad ever happened to us. So, those little white lies served as judge, jury, and coat of armor. Not so with little brown freckles. While they look innocuous enough, they may signal underlying cardiovascular problems, colorfully named LEOPARD, LAMB, or NAME syndromes. Nor are all the incantations in the world a match for a broken heart, when the yellow skin papules of pseudoxanthoma elasticum and the blue eye sclerae of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome point to defects of elastic and collagen fibers, respectively, and a “wicker ticker.”

While the “all clear” of an annual checkup evokes sighs of relief in those sailing uncharted waters, a sudden shift in surface tides may generate ripples indicative of the disturbed slumber of deeper demons.

(Part 2 of Skin Deep next week)

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Fabens Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fabens Independent School District Special Education Department will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed prior to 1998. Parents of these students may come to the Special Education Department located at 603 NE Camp Street in Fabens on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to claim their child’s file. The remaining files will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. If you have an questions, please call 764-3816.

AVISO

El Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens va a destruir los archivos confidenciales de estudiantes que estaban en programa de educación especial que han graduado, se han movido, o fueron despedidos en el año escolar de 1998 o antes. Los padres de estos estudiantes pueden venir a la oficina del Departamento de Educacion Especial del Distrito Escolar de Fabens en 603 NE Camp Street, de lunes al viernes de 8:00-4:00 de la tarde a recoger los archivos de sus hijos. Los archivos que no sean recogidos van a ser destruidos como manda el estado en 30 días después de este aviso. Si tienen preguntas, llamen al teléfono 764-3816.

WTCC: 08/17/06



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

CANUTILLO — Armando Nunez, eighth grade student at Alderete Middle School, was recognized during the August regular monthly school board meeting for having eight years of perfect attendance, from kindergarten through seventh grade. Armando was presented with a plaque and backpack filled with school supplies. The Nunez family, shown in photo, left to right, are Ricardo Martinez, Armando Nunez, Elizabeth Nunez, Maria Nunez, Patricia Nunez, and Angelica Nunez.

Fabens Independent School District SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Fabens Independent School District provides the following education program/services to identified children with disabilities 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), 1) 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 child with disabilities who is not receiving educational services, please contact: Richard Ortega, Special Education Director, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-3816.

El Distrito Escolar de Fabens SERVICIOS DE EDUCACION ESPECIAL

El distrito escolar de Fabens 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), 1) cuarto de recurso (K-12), y clases contenidas (K-12); 2) servicios diagnósticos; 3) servicios de transportación; 4) terapia de habla; 5) servicios de consejo; 6) servicios de equipaje adaptivo; 7) terapia física; 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 Educativos 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 explica 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 Fabens que no esta recibiendo servicios educacionales, favor de comunicarse con: Richard Ortega, Director de Educación Especial, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, Texas 79838, (915) 764-3816.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Fabens Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 2006 in the Boardroom of the Central Office, 821 N.E. “G” Street, Fabens, 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	\$0.142200/\$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	5.65% (increase)
Debt Service	87.62% (increase)
Total Expenditures	8.59% (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	\$ 183,640,064	\$ 180,834,457
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,187,972	\$ 1,783,820
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 113,717,805	\$ 121,579,795
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,063,619	\$ 922,610

* “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* \$18,600,000

* 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	\$ 0.076781*	\$ 1.576781	\$ 655	\$6,112
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.330050	\$ 0.142267*	\$ 1.472317	\$ 637	\$6,385
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.370050	\$ 0.142200*	\$ 1.512250	\$ 654	\$6,713

*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	\$ 42,110	\$ 46,101
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 27,087	\$ 29,848
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.576781	\$ 1.512250
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 427.10	\$ 451.38
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 24.28

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 1.512317. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.512317.

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)	\$ 7,064,143
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 249,455

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **San Elizario Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 2006 in the SEISD Administration Office, 1050 Chicken Ranch Road, San Elizario, 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	\$1.370000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.077800/\$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	6.58% (increase)
Debt Service	0.47% (increase)
Total Expenditures	6.37% (increase)

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 139,200,901	\$ 146,888,497
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 5,407,085	\$ 3,774,464
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 109,661,016	\$ 117,102,915
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 5,122,689	\$ 3,646,787

* “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* \$15,132,000

* 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	\$ 0.072600*	\$ 1.572600	\$ 466	\$6,832
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.330050	\$ 0.079200*	\$ 1.409250	\$ 432	\$6,579
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.370000	\$ 0.077800*	\$ 1.447800	\$ 444	\$6,958

*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	\$ 42,348	\$ 45,407
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 27,348	\$ 30,407
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.572600	\$ 1.447800
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 430.07	\$ 440.23
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 10.16

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 1.447805. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.447805.

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)	\$ 3,060,851
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 158,370

Public Notice
Clint 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, Dawn Hocking, at 926-4035, or mail at 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

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 proporcionar 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, Dawn Hocking, al numero 926-4035, o por correo a la siguiente dirección: 14521 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, Texas 79928.

WTCC: 08/17/06

Fabens Independent School District
PUBLIC NOTICE
OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Fabens Independent School District to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or any person who has a disability in the admission or access to programs, delivery of services or employment.

The Fabens Independent School District is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities as specified by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; prohibiting sex discrimination, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Inquiries concerning your rights may be referred to Gilbert Alarcon, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838. Phone: (915) 764-2025. Fax: (915) 764-3115.

NOTIFICACION PUBLICA

Es la norma de conducta de el distrito escolar de Fabens prohibir la discriminación a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o deshabilidad en la admisión o el acceso a programas, entrega de servicios o empleo.

El distrito escolar de Fabens esta comprometido a cumplir con las responsabilidades especificadas por el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como enmendado, el Título IX de la Enmienda de Educación de 1972, como enmendado, que prohíbe la discriminación sexual, la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como enmendado, la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975 como enmendado, y el Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidades.

Para información tocanta a sus derechos comuniquese con Gilbert Alarcon, P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838. Phone: (915) 764-2025. Fax: (915) 764-3115.

WTCC: 08/17/06



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

NEW HORIZON CAMPUS — The Clint ISD opened its 12th campus on Aug. 11, Horizon Middle School. On hand for the celebration were Assistant Superintendent Alfredo Solis, Board Member Alfred Gonzalez, Principal Josie Perez, Board President Jim Pendell, and Superintendent Ricardo Estrada.

Horizon Middle School opens in fast-growing Clint ISD

By Laura Cade
Special to the Courier

HORIZON — The Clint Independent School District held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Hori-

zon Middle School on Aug. 11, 2006. District officials, Horizon Middle School Staff, and guests were present to take part in the ceremonial ribbon cutting and to tour the facility to

See CLINT ISD, Page 14

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Anthony, Texas

Texas Community Development Program FY 2007 - 2008

The Town of Anthony, Texas, will hold a public hearing concerning the submission of an application(s) to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for grant assistance from the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP). The purpose of this hearing is to provide residents an opportunity to discuss the locality’s Citizen Participation Plan, local housing and community development needs statements, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities, and the use of past TCDP funds. The Town of Anthony encourages its residents to participate in the development of applications and invites them to make their views known at this public hearing. Residents unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments at the Anthony Town Hall, or by mail addressed to the Town of Anthony, P. O. Box 1269, Anthony, TX 79821. Written comments will be accepted until this public hearing is concluded. Residents with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services to attend this meeting should contact the Town Clerk, at (915) 886-3944, at least two days before the hearing, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

DATE : Tuesday, August 22, 2006
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Anthony Town Hall

A notice will be published in the newspaper at a later date, no later than five days before the submission of any TCDP application, describing the proposed project, locations proposed improvements, cost, and benefits to the Low and Moderate Income residents. At that time, a copy of the application will be available for review at the Anthony Town Hall during regular office hours.

El publico en general esta invitado a asistir a una audiencia para discutir la asistencia que se ofrece del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas. La presentacion y las discusiones sobre este programa se haran en espanol para aquellas personas que asi las deseen.

Art Franco Date Published:
Mayor 08/17/06

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The **Socorro Independent School District** will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 29, 2006 in the Education Center Board Room, 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928-5400. **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	\$1.244389/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.249300/\$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	15.20% (increase)
Debt Service	16.99% (increase)
Total Expenditures	15.39% (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	\$ 5,492,274,615	\$ 6,239,238,371
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 338,154,581	\$ 367,021,655
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 4,180,270,852	\$ 4,906,929,372
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 328,120,441	\$ 359,318,144

* “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* \$387,916,454

* 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	\$ 1.358282	\$ 0.269300*	\$ 1.627582	\$1,939	\$4,968
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.204389	\$ 0.249300*	\$ 1.453689	\$1,914	\$ 5,067
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.244389	\$ 0.249300*	\$ 1.493689	\$1,935	\$5,407

*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	\$ 88,429	\$104,302
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 73,347	\$ 84,691
Last Year’s Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.627582	\$ 1.493689
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,193.78	\$ 1,265.02
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 71.24

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 1.493689. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.493689.

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)	\$ 3,158,475
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 484,913

Clarett’s choices have been as consistent as they have been bad

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

In one of those classic “from the penthouse to the outhouse” scenarios, Maurice Clarett made headlines once again last week. But instead of crossing the goal line, these days he seems to always find himself in a police lineup. Eventually, even the dumbest of us pull our hands away when we touch something hot. This is called “cause and effect” or a “conditioned reflex.” Even Pavlov’s poodle knew a little something about that.

All of us face “forks in the road” in our lives. Big decisions we have to make that will take us in one direction or the other. Most of us at least try to go in the positive direction, the direction that will lead us to happiness and prosperity.

And then there is Clarett who — well, frankly — shouldn’t even be on the road in the first place. He’d probably take the fork and try to hurt someone with it.

Remember that Fiesta Bowl a few years ago when, as a freshman, Clarett scored the win-

ning touchdown that gave Ohio State it’s first national title since 1968?

Back then the sky was the limit. He had million dollar endorsement deals just waiting for his signature. But then he began making a few of those “fork in road” choices.

He got himself involved in a tough situation at Ohio State and when confronted with it — decided to give a false statement to police on the matter. He sat out the entire 2003 season and eventually dropped out of college.

He then challenged the NFL rule about entering the draft early, and lost. He was drafted by the Denver Broncos the next year but was cut during the pre-season.

That’s when Clarett’s “fork in the road” morphed into a one-way street leading straight downhill.

At the age of 22, Clarett is awaiting trial on two counts of aggravated robbery, four counts of robbery and one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

But the guy was tenacious on the football field, so why wouldn’t he be just as aggressive in his new chosen field — crime?

Clarett was arrested last week after he was

spotted by police driving erratically on a freeway in Ohio. But it only started there.

Seems Clarett was going along his merry way when he must have seen an imaginary fork in the road and made a U-turn on the freeway. Police tried to pull him over and Clarett had a decision to make — naturally, he chose to try and outrun the police.

And it turns out there was a good reason he tried to run. When finally corralled, Clarett had no less than four loaded weapons in his car and he was wearing a bulletproof vest.

This was discovered after stun guns were ineffective when shot against the vest. The police had to mace Clarett to subdue him.

Now, I’m not the brightest light in the tool shed, but I can’t figure out why a person would wear a bulletproof vest if he didn’t have to.

I occasionally catch the fashion channel on cable and I’ve never seen any supermodels strolling down the aisle wearing a suggestive Christian Dior backless ensemble, a magnificent pair of Loeffler Randall shoes and a rugged yet fashionable bulletproof vest.

As bizarre as all this is, it gets darker when you throw in the fact that Clarett was stopped

only a few blocks from a woman’s house who was scheduled to testify against him in his robbery trial.

A coincidence? I’m not sure what to think any more.

Anyway, the judge saw the guy as an imminent threat and set Clarett’s bail at \$5 million.

I’ve written about many guys and girls who have taken the plunge from grace. And I’ll write about many more, but this case is especially troubling when you consider how much this lost soul has thrown away.

You have to feel bad for someone who had so much going for him but then you’re brought back to reality after you hear that he mocks the judge, fights with police and has almost none of the characteristics that make us thinking, compassionate human beings.

In all the “forks in the road” life throws at us, everyone manages to make some good decisions even if only by accident.

But Clarett is an oddity. He seems to choose the exact opposite of what he should do, all the time.

This does at least make him consistent — but it also makes him a fool.

Clint ISD

From Page 13

celebrate the 12th campus to the district.

Horizon Middle School, home of the Hawks, began as a school within a school at Horizon High School. In 2005, the school was temporarily housed at C.T. Welch Intermediate while

the students and staff waited for the new facility on North Kenazo to be completed.

Horizon Middle School is the final project of the 2001 bond issue. It was designed by SMS Architects and Arcon Group Consultants to house 1,400 students. Constructed by VEMAC, the facility includes 49 classrooms, two gyms, football, softball, and baseball fields, basketball courts, a cafetorium, band room, choir room, library, four computer labs, three science

labs, a living skills room, an art room and more.

With the completion of the new school, the campus configuration in the Horizon area has changed to meet the student growth. Frank Macias Elementary and Desert Hills Elementary are now both pre-K through 3rd grade campuses. C.T. Welch Intermediate has students in grades four and five. Horizon Middle School has students in grades six, seven and eight. Horizon High School has students in grades 9

through 12.

The district will now commence with the 2006 bond commitments to keep up with the growth of the district. Clint ISD is projected to have 24,000 students by the year 2010 based on current developments. The district opened the 2006-2007 school year with about 9,800 students which is 475 more than last year. Horizon Middle School was expected to open with 1,150 students in grades six, seven and eight.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

Town of Clint

Advertisement and Invitation for Bids for Construction

The Town of Clint, Texas will receive sealed bids for construction of the Water Main Replacement Improvements — Cobos Subdivision (Office of Rural Community Affairs/T.C.D.P. Contract No. 725189 until 4:00 p.m. on August 31, 2006 at the Town of Clint located at 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint, Texas 79836 and at that time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited for several items and approximate quantities of work as follows:

1. 2,380 linear feet of 8-inch approved water pipe,
2. 80 linear feet of 16-inch steel casing installed by boring/tunneling methods,

3. 3 fire hydrants,
4. 25-3/4-inch residential service connections,
5. Associated valves and fittings,
6. 1,860 square yards of pavement removal and repair.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications will be available August 18, 2006 at The Town of Clint, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint Texas 79836.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$65.00 with the Town of Clint, Texas for each set of documents obtained. The deposit will be refunded if the documents and drawings are returned in good condition within 10 days following the bid opening. Plans and specifications for this project were prepared by CEA Engineering Group, 1204 Montana Ave., El Paso, Texas 79902.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the Town of Clint or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Office of Rural Community Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex age or national origin.

The Town of Clint reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

Bids may be held by Town of Clint for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders qualifications prior to the

contract award.

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

The Town of Clint is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, Small, Minority and Female owned firms are encouraged to submit bid proposals for this Project.

Mayor Dale T Reinhardt

WTCC: 08/17/06

Fabens Independent School District

Invitation to Bid

Sealed Athletic Equipment, Supplies and Uniform Catalog Bids, Bid No. 081706-901, addressed to Gilbert Alarcon, Fabens Independent School District, 821 NE “G” Avenue or P.O. Box 697, Fabens, TX 79838 will be received at the above address until 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 25, 2006, at which time they will be publicly opened. Bid forms and specifications may

be obtained by calling (915) 764-2025. 8/17-24

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Socorro High School Class of 1996 Reunion, Sunday, September 3, 2006, 1914 Lounge on 115 Durango, 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Info: socorroadclassof96.com 8/31

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment. 8/17

HELP WANTED

Full Time Sales Person Needed

Competitive wage. Interviews held and applications accepted Saturdays from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. beginning 8/26/06. Please bring your application to:

Ryan Supply, Inc.
Ace Hardware
117 N. Fabens St.
Fabens, TX

(915) 764-2239
8/24

STORAGE

HORIZON SELF STORAGE
• Small, Medium & Large Units
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418 S. Kenazo
852-9371
TFN

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.

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9/7

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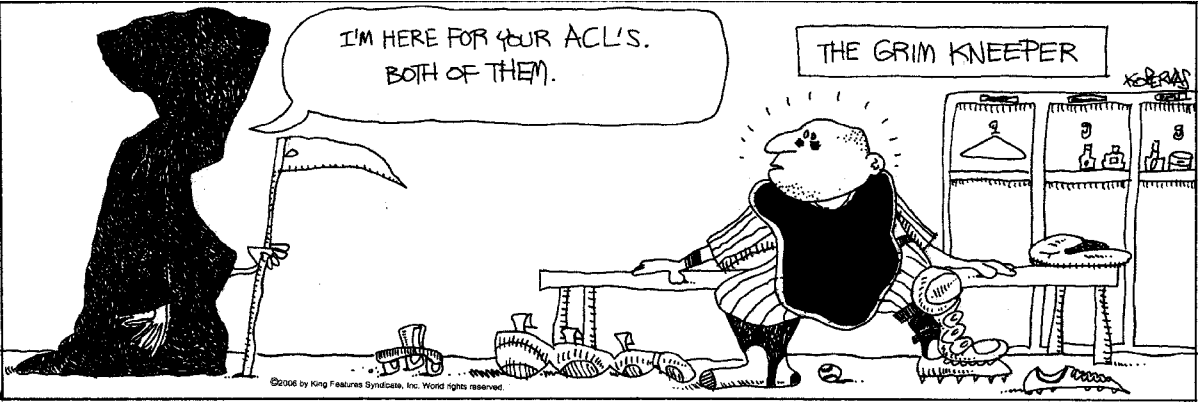
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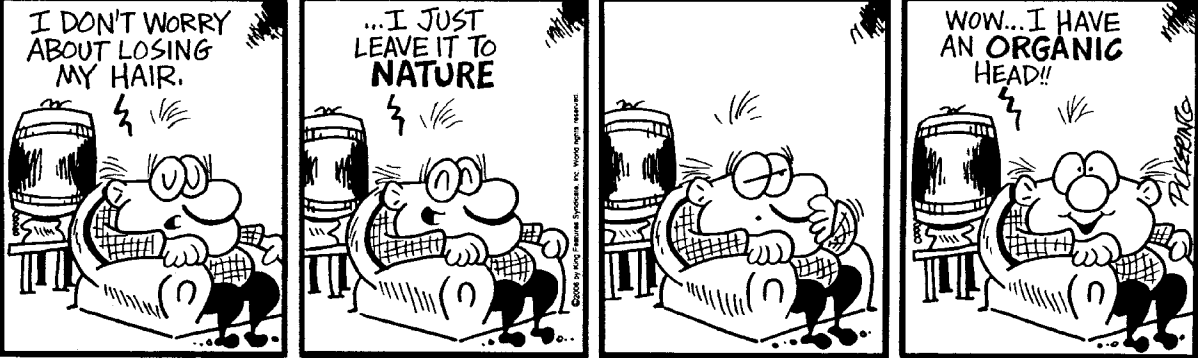
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Finally, Americans are excited about soccer

By Don Flood

Remember that scene at the end of “Casablanca” where Rick and the police captain walk off into the misty night:

“Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.”

Rick and Louis were bound together in a noble and heroic battle against the Nazis.

But great friendships aren’t just the stuff of movies. They happen in real life.

Take this recent quote from Oprah Winfrey about the special relationship she has with her friend Gayle King:

“When I was 22 years old and working as a TV anchor in Baltimore, there was a young production assistant in the newsroom, Gayle King. One night there was a snowstorm and she couldn’t get home.

“I said, ‘Hey, you can spend the night at my house.’ She said, ‘I don’t have any panties.’

“I said, ‘Well, I do. I have clean panties, and once I give them to you, you don’t have to give ‘em back.’”

While Oprah and Gayle’s friendship wasn’t forged in a wartime adventure, it is similarly based on something strong and enduring: an appreciation for clean underwear.

This statement shows Oprah is more than just a caring, sensitive Super Celebrity. Her goal, obviously, is to wrest from Michael Jackson the title of Weirdest Person on the Planet.

Yes, Jackson’s still the champ, but Oprah has proven she’s a worthy contender.

Sadly, elsewhere on the pop-culture front, we must recognize the American soccer team was not a contender in the World Cup.

But for the first time in forever,

Americans were excited and talking about World Cup soccer.

The reason for the excitement points to where soccer needs to go to gain American acceptance: head-butting.

It’s so simple, I wonder why I didn’t think of it before. As soon as that French guy head-butted the Italian player, Americans began realizing: soccer is a real sport after all.

Now, if we can just incorporate head-butting into all soccer games, we can turn it into a big-time American sport.

I’m not saying we should dispense completely with the running and kicking the ball back and forth. That’s tradition, and I respect that.

But we need the excitement that head-butting can bring. Here’s how it would work. The players could continue running up and down the field for a while, though hopefully not so long.

If someone actually scored — which hasn’t happened in years — the goal would count, but the running around would just be a chance for the players to warm up for the real game: a team head-butting face-off to decide the winner.

Following the warm-up, the ball would be removed from the field, lest it interfere with the match, and the two teams would face each other in a straight line.

Or a crooked line. Or no line at all. It doesn’t matter.

The point here is to achieve pure bedlam, a mad head-butting competition that a rabid ram would be afraid to enter. Last team standing would win.

The key now is to promote this great new soccer innovation. If we can get Oprah behind it, I think it will work.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Super Crossword

- CAN'T STANDISH STILL ACROSS

1 WWII site

7 Serenity

12 Brazos River city

16 Clerical garb

19 Point the finger at

20 Synthetic fiber

21 Christiania, today

22 Remote

23 Riddle: Part 1

25 Gershwin's " _ in Blue"

27 Beatty or Buntline

28 Gaggie gal

29 Watch part

30 Fountain order

31 Rocker Marc

33 Nature spirit

36 Sable, for one

38 Lee of "The Fall Guy"

41 Cantaloupe's cousin

43 Team

44 Skater

Berezhnaya

45 Bleak critique

46 Riddle: Part 2

51 Papua New Guinea port

52 Contaminates

55 Butz or Warren

56 Sapporo sash

57 Tactful

59 Consider

61 Ford flop
- 63 Maine town

64 Space

66 Al _ (cooking term)

67 Lear, to Goneril

69 Riddle: Part 3

74 Fleur-de- _

75 Desert schlepper

77 _ Romeo

78 Heep of Dickens

80 Coeur d'-, ID

81 Cartoonist

Silverstein

83 Hard to describe

88 Hurried

89 Little one

91 Prate

92 _ 4 (Toyota model)

93 Riddle: Part 4

98 Loafer part

99 Gladden

101 Alan of "Gilligan's Island"

102 Frequent Funicello co-star

104 Scanty

105 Roller-coaster feeling

108 1970 World's Fair site

109 Chatterley or Windermere

110 Director Nicolas

111 Skip

113 Turbine part

116 _ Goncalo, Brazil

119 Avoidance

121 Answer to riddle

125 Swell place?
- 126 Actor Barry

127 Murcia mister

128 Farm adolescent

129 Weaken

130 _ -Neisse Line

131 Early German

132 Spanish _
- DOWN

1 Cut

2 Flu symptom

3 Like some donuts

4 Groan producer

5 Shakespearean snake

6 Equine exclamations

7 Kelly's possum

8 Goofs

9 Tabloid subjects

10 Dot follower

11 Minnesota twins?

12 Merit

13 '75 Wimbledon winner

14 More humid

15 "Alley _"

16 In progress

17 Soup scoop

18 Adams or Ferry

24 Actor Chaney

26 It needs to be threaded

29 Boom or gaff

31 Swindle

32 Wind instrument?

34 Spitz sound

35 Exec's deg.
- 37 Perplexed

38 Blend

39 Jai _

40 Army vehicle

41 "Makin' Whoopee" singer

42 Pro foe

43 "The King and I" setting

45 Brendel's instrument

47 Pigskin prop

48 Mubarak of Egypt

49 Helps a hood

50 Mosaic bit

53 Singer Tori

54 Torah, e.g.

58 Shade of green

59 Realm

60 Big bird

62 Indian city

65 Oven setting

67 _ Lama

68 Improve

70 _ kwon do

71 London borough

72 Furious

73 Short movie?

75 Funny fellow

76 Deadly

79 "It's a deal!"

81 _ terrier

82 Drill sergeant's shout

84 West. alliance

85 Improve oneself, in a way

86 Behind schedule
- 87 Always

90 Aged, as paper

94 Poultry serving

95 Cobbler's need

96 Palindromic name

97 Asian ox

100 Nonclerical

103 It's down in the mouth

104 Vandellas' leader

105 Lock

106 Biblical book

107 Summarize

108 Ocean vessel

109 Christie or Costello

112 Lion's pride

114 Melville work

115 Like Hitchcock's curtain

116 Couch

117 Served well

118 Creole veggie

120 _ trip

121 Ltr. addenda

122 Where flocks frolic

123 "Tell _ No" ('65 hit)

124 Outer edge

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18
19							20						21					22		
23						24							25				26			
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129					130					131						132				

Answer Page 14

Social Security Q&A

By Ray Vigil

Q: I will be eligible for full retirement next year, but will probably hold off retiring for at least another year or two. Will my benefits increase if I wait and apply for retirement benefits later on?

A: Yes. If you continue to work, each additional year you work adds another year of earnings to your Social Security record. And if you earn more now than you did in the past, that could increase the amount of your monthly Social Security payments. Also, from the time you reach your full retirement age to age 70 you will earn delayed retirement credits. These credits can increase your benefit by a certain percentage (depending on date of birth) if you delay your retirement beyond full retirement age. For example, if you were born in 1943 or later, we will add 8 percent per year to your benefit for each year that you delay signing up for Social Security beyond your full retirement age.

Q: I have decided that later this spring, I will file for Social Security retirement benefits. I can save myself a trip to the Social Security office by applying online, right?

A: Yes. Simply go to www.socialsecurity.gov and look for the link Apply for retirement benefits in the center of the page.

Q: I did not apply for Medicare when I turned 65. Can I apply now?

A: No. You will be able to file during an open enrollment period which is from January 1 through March 31 of each year, permitting individuals age 65 or over who did not enroll or dropped their Part B Medicare coverage to sign up. Your coverage would begin July 1. Generally, a 10 percent premium penalty will be added to the monthly premium for each year you could have enrolled but did not. However, if you are covered by an employer or union group health plan through your or your spouse's current or active employment, you may qualify for a special enrollment period. The special enrollment period allows you to delay enrollment in Part B without paying a premium penalty or waiting for a general enrollment period. You have an eight-month special enrollment period if you have group health plan coverage from current employment at the time you first became eligible for Medicare. This special enrollment period begins with the month employment ends or the month your group health plan coverage ends, whichever comes first.

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

AccuWeather.com®

Thursday A thunderstorm in spots 86° RealFeel 93°	Thu. night A t-storm possible early 69° RealFeel 67°	Friday A t-storm in the area 90° 69° RealFeel 88° 68°	Saturday A stray afternoon t-storm 90° 68° RealFeel 88° 65°	Sunday A thundershower possible 91° 69° RealFeel 89° 66°	Monday Mostly cloudy 91° 69° RealFeel 94° 69°	Tuesday Cloudy to partly sunny 89° 69° RealFeel 95° 69°	Wednesday Partly sunny 91° 69° RealFeel 96° 69°
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The patented RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

IN THE SKY

Temperatures

Above Normal Near Normal Below Normal

Precipitation

Above Normal Near Normal Below Normal

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Last	New
Thu.	6:32 a.m.	7:47 p.m.	Thu.	12:38 a.m.	3:40 p.m.		
Fri.	6:32 a.m.	7:46 p.m.	Fri.	1:28 a.m.	4:39 p.m.	8/15	8/23
Sat.	6:33 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	Sat.	2:24 a.m.	5:31 p.m.	First	Full
Sun.	6:33 a.m.	7:44 p.m.	Sun.	3:24 a.m.	6:15 p.m.		
Mon.	6:34 a.m.	7:43 p.m.	Mon.	4:25 a.m.	6:52 p.m.	8/31	9/7
Tues.	6:35 a.m.	7:42 p.m.	Tues.	5:24 a.m.	7:24 p.m.		
Wed.	6:35 a.m.	7:41 p.m.	Wed.	6:22 a.m.	7:52 p.m.		

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

REGIONAL CITIES													U.S. CITIES														
Thursday				Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Thursday				Friday			Saturday			Sunday				
City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	City	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W	HI	LO	W		
Abilene, TX	98	72	s	96	71	s	93	70	pc	93	72	pc	Atlanta	88	72	t	88	72	t	88	71	t	88	71	t		
Albuquerque, NM	87	64	pc	87	64	pc	87	64	pc	87	65	pc	Boston	78	64	s	80	66	s	84	68	s	79	66	pc		
Amarillo, TX	89	66	t	92	64	s	89	64	s	90	65	s	Chicago	84	63	s	84	66	t	82	63	t	80	61	pc		
Austin, TX	102	72	s	98	71	pc	95	71	pc	95	72	pc	Denver	92	58	pc	84	55	pc	80	56	t	84	58	t		
Brownsville, TX	97	76	s	96	76	pc	95	77	pc	95	78	s	Detroit	84	64	s	86	68	s	82	66	t	81	61	pc		
Dodge City, KS	93	67	pc	92	64	s	89	66	pc	93	65	s	Houston	97	75	s	95	76	pc	93	77	pc	94	76	t		
Jackson, MS	94	73	pc	92	73	t	92	73	t	92	71	t	Indianapolis	87	68	s	85	70	t	87	66	t	82	63	t		
Laredo, TX	102	80	s	102	79	pc	102	79	pc	101	79	pc	Kansas City	86	70	pc	90	70	pc	87	67	pc	89	65	pc		
Little Rock, AR	94	70	pc	94	74	pc	92	74	pc	92	72	t	Los Angeles	80	62	pc	82	64	pc	82	64	pc	84	66	pc		
Lubbock, TX	92	68	t	94	68	s	94	68	s	90	68	pc	Miami	91	80	pc	90	80	pc	90	79	t	90	77	pc		
Memphis, TN	93	75	s	95	74	t	92	75	pc	93	73	t	Minneapolis	82	66	pc	80	66	pc	80	64	pc	82	64	pc		
Midland, TX	93	70	pc	94	70	s	93	68	s	91	69	pc	New Orleans	92	79	t	90	77	t	90	76	t	92	77	t		
Pueblo, CO	94	58	pc	89	56	pc	86	58	pc	90	58	t	New York City	84	66	s	84	68	s	86	70	s	82	70	pc		
Roswell, NM	85	65	t	89	67	t	89	65	t	90	65	pc	Omaha	86	68	pc	88	66	pc	86	64	pc	85	64	pc		
St. Louis, MO	89	71	pc	93	73	pc	90	71	pc	88	67	pc	Phoenix	105	83	s	105	83	s	104	81	s	101	83	t		
San Antonio, TX	99	76	s	98	75	pc	96	76	pc	95	75	pc	San Francisco	72	56	pc	72	56	pc	72	56	pc	74	57	pc		
Texarkana, AR	99	71	s	96	74	pc	95	74	pc	96	72	t	Seattle	76	56	s	82	58	s	82	58	s	77	56	s		
Waco, TX	103	76	s	97	75	pc	96	75	pc	96	74	pc	Washington	88	70	s	88	70	s	88	72	s	88	69	pc		
Wichita, KS	92	72	pc	92	71	s	90	68	pc	91	69	pc															
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.																											

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