



NEWSBRIEFS

Socorro ISD rating

For the 5th year in a row, the Socorro Independent School District has received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The Superior Achievement rating is the highest, demonstrating the quality of Socorro ISD's financial management and reporting system. "We are very pleased with Socorro ISD's FIRST rating," said Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools. "It shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers' dollars. This rating shows that Socorro's schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently." "This is just one more example of the outstanding financial management of our SISD Administration," said Board President Charles E. Garcia. "I have tremendous confidence in our team to continue efficiently using the District's resources to best serve the needs of the families of Socorro ISD." "The state looks at 21 points of accountability before they assign a rating," said Mary Benham, Assistant Superintendent for Finance. "I am proud of my team here at Socorro ISD. They work very hard on behalf of the District to ensure the District's money is managed well."

Read on

The Kiwanis Club of Horizon City shared the joy of reading with children during October. The club participated in Read Around the World, Oct. 18, 2007, an annual event involving Kiwanis clubs in 94 nations. The purpose of Read Around the World is to promote child literacy, says club president Ben Narburth. "The first step is to read to children," he says. "The second step is to give them books they can treasure and read again and again." Kiwanis members distributed over 700 free books at Desert Wind this year. "Reading to children is important", Narburth said. "Children's later reading ability is directly related to the number of hours younger children are read to." Giving books to children also is important, he says. Studies show reading scores correlate with the number of books in the home, not with the family income. "Everyone in our community can participate in Read Around the World," Narburth said. "Just take the time to read a picture book or story to your children or grandchildren. Then give them the book to keep as their own".

Crime time

Crime Stoppers of El Paso Inc is helping the El Paso Police Department locate a person who viciously stabbed and robbed a man in the Mission Valley by making this the current "Crime of the Week." On Saturday, Sept. 22, a little after midnight, a 27-year-old male was walking along

See BRIEFS, Page 8

Don't criticize the other person's plan unless you have a better one to offer.

— Quips & Quotes

Montwood High School senior on State Energy Education Board

By Irma Flores
Special to the Courier

With a senior year filled with homework and school activities, Montwood High School senior Cesar Leyva is taking on another challenge, getting his classmates to become environmentally friendly. As the Student State Director for the Texas Energy Education Development (TEED), Leyva is learning from experts across the state about energy conservation, recycling and helping the environment.

This is his second year working on the state-wide project that connects students with leaders in the energy field. Last year as a junior, he was the newsletter coordinator. As a State Director, Leyva will lead meetings of the 13-member panel, which includes professionals in the various energy fields that will meet throughout the year in Austin, Tx. With the group, Leyva is pursuing a proclamation on environmental issues from Texas Governor Rick Perry as well as a house resolution.

"I wanted to get involved because in life you

get what you put into it," said Leyva who plans on going to Georgetown University to study public policy. "Plus I like to help people as much as I can and by helping the environment I can make it better for everyone else."

Montwood Student Activities Director Laura Price who has known Leyva since his freshman year is his sponsor for the TEED board.

"This is a big honor. He will be running meetings not just with students but with adults in this field. He's available to make speeches on environment conservation," said Price.

TEED is about educating students on the environment and ways to protect and save it. It also creates awareness on alternative fuel sources, new uses for recycled materials, and new laws protecting the environment.

In addition to being Student Council President, Leyva is also part of the Mayor's 100 Teens program and was selected by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) as a Scholar. Leyva is also a member of the National Honor Society and on the Senior Class committee at Montwood High School.



— Photo courtesy Socorro ISD

Cesar Leyva

Nursing students intern with Clint ISD

By Caesar Esparza
Special to the Courier

Clint ISD and El Paso Community College have partnered together to give nursing students hands on training and experience.

Clint ISD nurses chose to host the students because of the needed assistance with the children and the overflow of students from EPCC. "The students had already been doing internships with a few other school districts, however, I received a call from EPCC asking if we could host students" said Linda Sandoval, Desert Hills Elementary and Lead Nurse for Clint ISD. "We really needed extra assistance throughout many of our campuses. The help was welcomed and it is a great benefit for us to have the students working with us as well

as a benefit to the students."

The interns are lending a hand at elementary campuses in Clint ISD. The EPCC students participating in the program are Emily Quezada, Melissa Marquez, Carlos Moral Francisco Acosta, and Brenda Bolaski. Their primary instructor at the Mission Campus is Registered Nurse Kim Golucke. Quezada, Marquez and Morales are former Clint ISD students who return to their old campuses to give students proper hygienic knowledge for their daily routines. The interns, whom will also spend time at hospitals, daycares, and nursing homes worked with pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students informing them on proper hygiene practices. "We have been working with the kids teaching them how to properly brush their teeth and wash their hands. Many times kids will just run their hands through the sink

without applying soap and scrubbing. Thus, we want to teach them how to do everything the right way" says Melissa Marquez, a third semester nursing student and former Desert Hills Elementary Student. Many of the students requested to intern at their former schools.

The "Less-Than-1-Year Nursing Certificate" is a program that prepares the students with the knowledge,

See NURSES, Page 8



— Photo courtesy Clint ISD

INTERNS AND MENTORS — Emily Quezada (from left), Carlos Morales, C. T. Welch Nurse Elizabeth Branhan, EPCC Instructor Kim Golucke, Francisco Acosta and Brenda Bolaski.

State leaders work to keep beneficial tax break

By Allen Spelce
Special to the Courier

AUSTIN — Comptroller Susan Combs and Texas Congressman Kevin Brady want to preserve a tax deduction that saves Texans more than \$1 billion per year on their federal income tax. A law allowing Texans who file itemized federal income tax returns to deduct state and local sales taxes will expire at the end of this year if Congress does not vote to extend it.

"In Texas, this law has had a significant positive impact on the state's economy, accounting for additional money in taxpayers' pockets, as well as increased job creation, investment and economic productivity," Combs said.

Combs estimates extending the deduction would save Texans a projected \$1.2 billion a year, or an average of \$520 per filer claiming the deduction. The Comptroller says continuing the deduction for 2008 and beyond is vitally important, because it is associated with 15,700 to 25,700 jobs and \$1.1 billion and \$1.4 billion in gross state product.

Congressman Brady led the bi-partisan effort in the U.S. House of Representatives to restore the federal deduction in 2004 and has filed legislation that would make the sales tax deduction permanent.

"This has always been about fairness and about stretching our families' pocketbooks here in Texas," said Brady, who applauded Comptroller Combs on her initiative to help preserve the tax relief. "These are real savings for taxpayers and real jobs for our state."

Combs sent a letter to the Texas congressional delegation and other key lawmakers, urging them to support extending the sales tax deduction. (attached) On Nov. 6, Congressman Brady and the Comptroller's staff will brief members of Congress on the impact of the sales tax deduction on Texas.

"This provision puts taxpayers in Texas and other states without a state income tax on an equal footing with citizens elsewhere," Combs said.

Texas Governor Rick Perry, along with governors from the six other states who enjoy no state and local income taxes, sent a letter to congressional leaders urging an extension of the state and local sales tax deduction. (attached)

"I urge Congress to act swiftly to extend and make permanent the state and local sales tax deduction to ensure Texas taxpayers are treated fairly and equally to other states," Perry said.

Since 2004, residents of Texas, Tennessee, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming have been able to claim a deduction on their federal income tax for state and local sales and motor vehicle taxes they have paid, giving them a tax break similar to residents of other states, who can deduct their state income tax from their federal income tax.

...the deduction would save Texans a projected \$1.2 billion a year...



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Life after war

He said he heard the land mine click when he stepped on it. I'm a goner, he thought. From his stance and sudden stillness, his fellow soldiers quickly understood his — and their — predicament. He said in spite of his protestations for them to stay clear, they gathered round him, wrapping him in their individual flak jackets until he said he “looked like the Michelin tire man.” He said he didn't want their help. He said he would rather die than go through life missing body parts. They didn't listen and they wrapped him as securely as they could. Then they left him and he dove desperately away from the deadly device that had lurked so silently in those Asian killing field so far from his native New Mexico. He fully expected to lose one or more limbs if not his life. My friend encountered one of man's nastiest little inventions during a time when the survival rate of wounded soldiers were not so favorable as they are today. Ironically, it has been in the forum of war — in which the art of destroying and maiming a human body is being perfected — that amazing life-saving techniques have emerged. An astounding 95 percent of soldiers wounded in Iraq who survive that first “golden hour” after injury will live to talk about it. A soldier in Vietnam was 33 percent more likely to succumb to his wounds, simply because his care was not as sophisticated. The rate of survival for wounded and maimed soldiers from less technologically advanced nations, of course, is pretty much as it was during the Civil War, in which starva-

tion, exposure, infection, dysentery and gangrene killed as many men as the outright wounds suffered on the battle field. Your hopes of survival following a serious battlefield wound during that most atrocious of engagements were abysmal, especially if you were treated in the field medic's tents of death in which limbs were removed and cauterized with hopeless abandon and lack of sanitation and antiseptic flung open the door to deadly infection. According to one researcher, Civil War “sawbones” did some “nasty things to people in trying to treat them. Mostly, the soldier either healed by himself or he didn't make it.” Not so these days. If you're going to suffer a life-threatening injury in armed conflict, now is the time to do it. In fact, the techniques and procedures followed by medical personnel in the Iraq war are so successful that they are being called “miracles” due to the high ratio of lives that are saved in the face of potentially deadly wounds. The successful methodology of saving lives includes hi-tech chemical blood-clotting bandaging and greatly reduced use of tourniquets, which are utilized minimally and in extreme cases only, having been proven to greatly increase the risk of infection and eventual development of gangrene. Field medics do only what is immediately necessary to keep a soldier alive. Highly efficient and well-equipped field hospitals are only a brief stopping off point for the critically wounded. Immediate high-speed transport to better equipped hospitals has been aided by new procedures and equipment that enable severely wounded bodies to survive

travel at 3,000 feet, a feat that would surely have sealed the fate of a severely wounded person in the past. A soldier wounded in Iraq can go from the battlefield to a field hospital at Balad Air Base and on to a army medical center in Landstuhl, Germany in only a matter of hours. There he receives probably as good care as he would receive in the U.S. — if not better. While overnighing in Barstow, California, recently I saw a little boy and girl, running down the sidewalk to catch up with their father who was partially concealed from my view by parked cars. As he emerged, I saw that he was using crutches, and was missing one of his legs above the knee. Dressed in camo t-shirt and green khaki shorts, hair cut military-style, all-business, there was no doubting that this was a soldier. At first I thought how sad it was that a man of his age and health should be so maimed, but how glad his family must be to have him at all. Oh, you were wondering about my friend? Well, as he shoved away from what should have been a deafening explosion he was amazed to hear — nothing. The mine has malfunctioned, either from weather or faulty

mechanics. He walked away unharmed. He served out his time in the death pits — he was wounded and survived and came home to raise a child, and now to be a grandfather. He has been like a brother to me, like an uncle to my kids. I'm glad for the men who come home from war and live out their lives, but the improvements in battlefield medicine only stand as a vivid witness to how much this world needs a better way to solve conflicts than to destroy men's bodies. We need more than life after war. We need life without it.



Reyes Reports

By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Afghanistan needs help

Six years removed from the tragic events of September 11, 2001, U.S. military operations in Afghanistan have become almost an afterthought to the war in Iraq. Instead of completing the mission of bringing Osama bin Laden to justice and building a stable democratic Afghanistan that would no longer serve as a breeding ground for terrorists and Islamic militants, U.S. military forces are now locked in a divisive war with an enemy that has no direct link to these terrorist attacks and a war with no immediate end in sight. The diversion of resources from Afghanistan to Iraq continues to leave Afghanistan increasingly vulnerable. Suicide attacks and roadside bombings are increasingly on the rise, the drug trade is blossoming and a resurgent Taliban and other Islamic militants are expanding their control over southern and eastern Afghanistan. In my capacity as Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have traveled to Afghanistan many times and have seen firsthand the challenges with which our troops are struggling. Without a renewed focus and commitment to Afghanistan, we run the risk of failure, a failure that could have potentially grave consequences for our safety and national security. We must never lose sight of what is at stake in Afghanistan. In justifying the war in Iraq, President Bush is fond of stating, “it's better to fight the terrorists over there than over here.” He also has repeatedly argued that a military withdrawal from Iraq would allow the terrorists to establish a safe haven in Iraq. This thinking ignores the fact that Osama bin Laden and his chief lieutenants already have reestablished a safe haven along the Afghan-Pakistan border and unlike the enemy that our troops are fighting in Iraq, these terrorists have already demonstrated an ability to strike the U.S. homeland. The unclassified key judgements of a July 2007 National Intelligence Estimate reinforces this point, warning that Al-Qaeda has strengthened significantly over the past two years because of its safe haven along the Afghan-Pakistan border and that it has recon-

stituted its capability to strike the United States. Although U.S. military forces and those of our allies are performing heroically in Afghanistan, they are woefully undermanned and under-equipped to accomplish their mission. The NATO-led mission in Afghanistan includes a total of roughly 49,000 coalition forces, to which the U.S. contributes around 25,000 troops. This number pales in comparison to the 150,000 or so U.S. troops presently in Iraq as well as the 100,000 Russian soldiers present during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Inadequate troop levels, combined with a lack of equipment has often meant that our troops have been able achieve tactical victories over the Taliban but are unable to control areas of Afghanistan for any long period of time. Manpower shortages have also made various stability and reconstruction operations increasingly difficult. Some of our NATO allies — such as the Netherlands and Canada — are now under increasing domestic political pressure to withdraw their military forces from Afghanistan, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is now informing our allies that the US may have to shift troops from Kosovo to Afghanistan next year if NATO allies do not fulfill their commitments. The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan requires the leadership and military power that only the United States can provide. It is time for a new strategy in Afghanistan, one that matches resources with objectives. I believe that we need to redirect some of our current focus away from the war of choice in Iraq to the war of necessity in Afghanistan. We need to consider a strategic realignment of forces in theater to place increased emphasis on the rapidly decaying situation in Afghanistan. A renewed American commitment to Afghanistan in terms of military forces and additional resources would bolster our NATO allies, help deprive the Taliban and Al-Qaeda of their safe haven, and allow for the training and equipping of even greater numbers of indigenous Afghan security forces. The mission in Afghanistan cannot fail. Our national security, the future of Afghanistan, and the credibility of the NATO alliance are all on the line.



Por la Gente

By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Children's hospital on ballot

Hola, mi gente. On November 6th, you will be voting on sixteen different amendments to the state constitution. I have in past articles provided you with information on most of the propositions. I hope that you found them informational and helpful. Although there are bond issues on the ballot, none of those propositions will result in immediate tax increases such as those which are imposed by city or county bond issues. The sixteen amendments to the Texas Constitution have a minimal impact on the lives of most Texans unlike past amendments such as those concerning gambling or alcohol. Your vote on these items is still very important. Also on the ballot is the authorization from the voters to fund the proposed Children's Hospital at R.E. Thomason Hospital. This particular item will result in an increase in your property taxes although by a very small amount per hundred dollars. My family and I have decided that the price to pay is worth having a stand alone hospital for children. I just needed to look at my grandchildren to make that decision. In deciding your vote, please remember that no other facility in El

Paso will duplicate all of the benefits that the Children's Hospital will provide. I don't believe that it will hurt any other facility in town. In fact, because it will attract patients from out of town, the opportunities for all of the facilities here will increase. El Paso will benefit from the Children's Hospital. Election Day is Tuesday November 6th. These are issues that call for all of the voters in El Paso County to consider. If you have not already voted during the early voting period, I strongly encourage all of you to vote on Tuesday Nov. 6. Gracias, mi gente, and I remain your friend and public servant, Chente for la gente.

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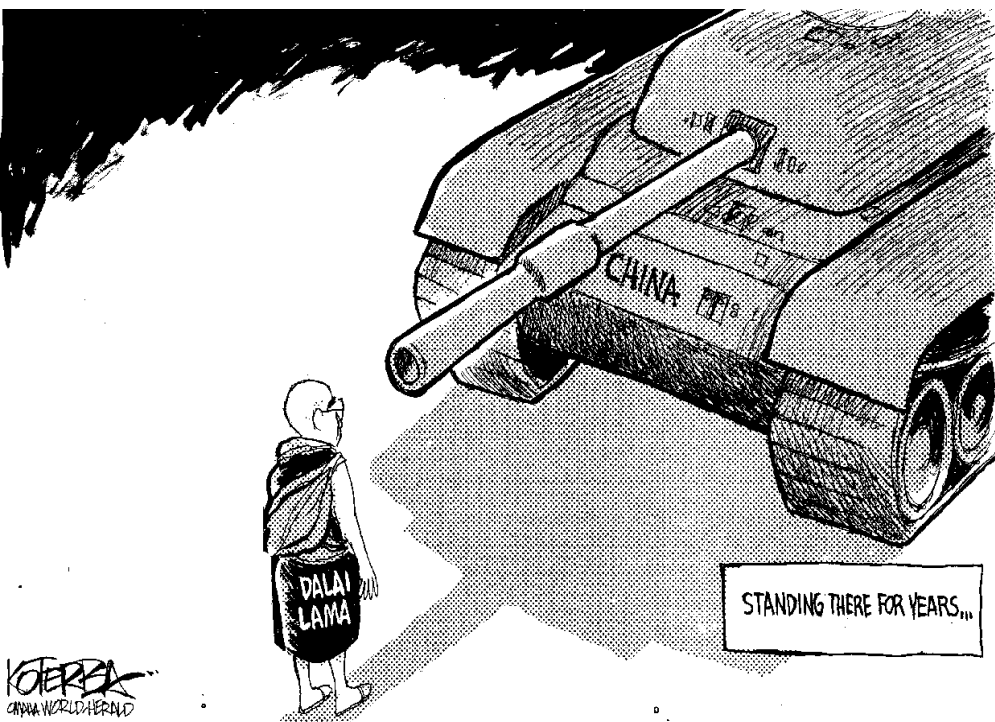
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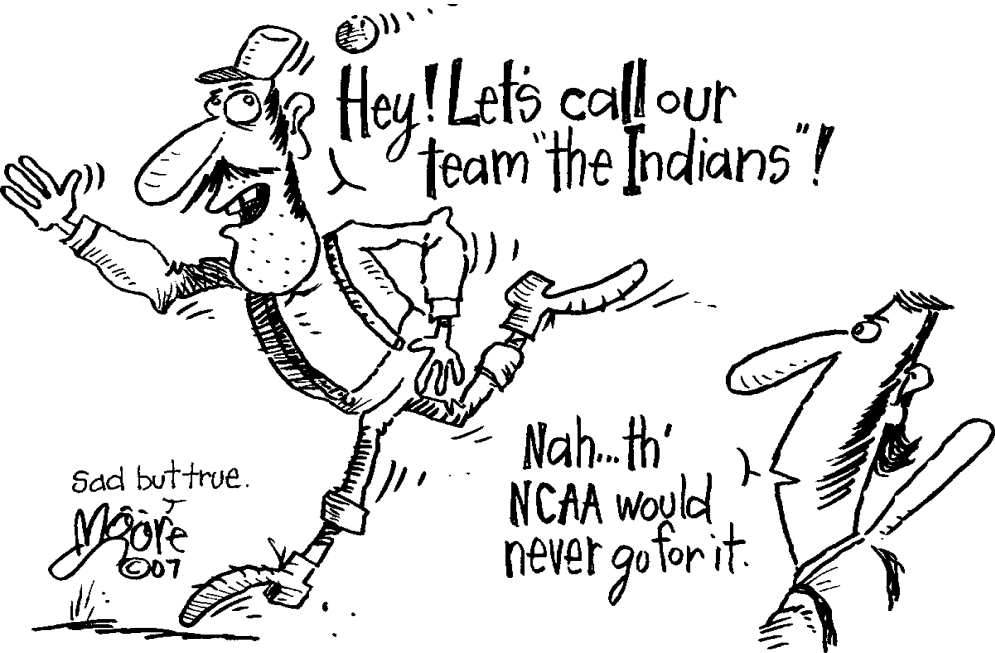
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Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Nov. 2, 1867: Possibly the first baseball game in Texas played by "civilians" took place in San Antonio.

Damian ES faculty and staff receive award

By Kim Guzman
Special to the Courier

Jose H. Damian Elementary School, in the Canutillo Independent School District, received recently a \$135,000 grant through the Texas Educator Excellence Awards program (previously referred to as the Governor’s Educator Excellence Awards).

The Texas Educator Excellence Award grant provides funds to campuses with high percentages of economically disadvantaged students and that have demonstrated high levels of student achievement or marked improvement in student performance.

Damian Elementary School was selected based on specific 2006-07 criteria including ranking within the top third of Texas elementary campuses with highest percentages of economically disadvantaged students, a Recognized rating, and student improvement in math and reading TAKS scores, according to Margarita Porras-Grant, Damian ES principal.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

KUDOS — School board members, from left, Mago Arellano, Shonda Jordan, and Sergio Coronado, Superintendent Dr. Pam Padilla, Damian ES Principal Margarita Porras-Grant, and Assistant Principal Marsha Fintell proudly display two new banners.

Seventy five percent of the award from this grant was used to provide incentive payments to classroom teachers, and the remaining funds, twenty five percent of the total grant award, was used to

provide incentive payments to non-teaching campus employees and for other activities such as professional development, mentoring programs, curriculum development, and assessments.

View from here By Peter J. Pitts

Paying the ultimate price for cheap pills

When was the last time you picked up a bottle of Bayer Aspirin and wondered whether it was authentic?

Never? Well, Bayer is a well-known brand. You were probably in a chain store, or at least on a popular website like DrugStore.com. Plus, you don’t need a prescription for aspirin.

But what if you wanted a drug that might be unavailable or cost too much in your area? What would you do if, alternatively, the government, your doctor, or your insurance company denied your request for something you thought could help you?

Like many others, Marcia Bergeron of Quadra Island in Canada was in just such a situation when she turned to the Internet.

While she likely thought she was purchasing inexpensive medicine from a safe online supplier in Canada, authorities found that she had actually ordered pills produced in Southeast Asia from a website based in the Czech Republic. It was a costly mistake that killed her.

Toxicology tests found three well-known drugs in her system: alprazolam — more commonly recognized as the anti-anxiety drug Xanax; zolpidem — which most are acquainted with as the brand-name sleeping pill Ambien; and acetaminophen. Zolpidem is not available in Canada, so it’s understandable why Bergeron turned to the internet to get the drug.

The number of additional substances found in toxicology tests, however, was astounding. Bergeron had high levels of “filler” materials like aluminum, tin, and even arsenic in her system. Such materials are the hallmark of dangerous counterfeit drugs.

As more consumers head online for cheap drugs, it’s all too likely that Bergeron’s story could become common — especially because the world’s drug market is already awash in counterfeits.

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 10 percent of drugs sold around the world are fake. In fact, a 2005 FDA operation at the New York, Miami, and Los Angeles airports found that 85 percent of drugs from so-called “Canadian pharmacies” didn’t actually come from Canada.

Supporters of drug importation hope to ease concerns about counterfeits by mandating the thorough inspection of imported drugs. Unfortunately, the FDA will have a hard time making sure everything is safe, legal, and properly labeled because counterfeiting is so decentralized.

In the European Union, for example, regulations prohibit manufacturers from managing their supply chains. This results in a lucrative market for wholesalers, who can open a package of pills only to repackage and re-label it. Because the manufacturer has no say in the process, dosages and expiration dates are frequently incorrect, and the drugs themselves are also subject to tampering.

So a box of meds that looks like it came from Britain could easily have originated anywhere in the E.U., including places like Latvia, Malta, or the Czech Republic.

Fortunately, elderly Americans don’t need to scour the Internet for cheap drugs. Anyone who’s 65 or older qualifies for the Medicare drug benefit. Although this program is only two years old, it is already providing subsidized coverage to around 24 million seniors. Its remarkable success is due to the fact that the drug benefit, unlike most government programs, is administered by private companies.

Yet many lawmakers continue to claim that drug importation is necessary to give seniors and other consumers access to cheaper drugs. If the tragic story of Marcia Bergeron has proven anything, it’s that turning to a pharmacy supposedly based in Canada to fill one’s medical needs can have disastrous consequences.

Saving money should take coupons, not lives. If only policymakers kept up on the news.

Peter J. Pitts is President of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest and a former FDA Associate Commissioner.

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County notes

By Don Woodyard

EL PASO COUNTY—Here is a wrap-up of three October meetings of governing bodies for a municipality and two school boards in the Upper and Lower Valley.

They are highlights of Vinton’s Village Council meeting, the San Elizario ISD and the Canutillo ISD.

October 16

Vinton Council

Leading off the council agenda was a presentation by Dr. Pam Padilla, superintendent of the Canutillo ISD. The focus of her overview of district operations and accomplishments was to gain support for the tax rate rollback election scheduled Nov. 6. For every dollar raised in taxes, the state would give back two dollars, she explained.

She spoke of new housing springing up throughout the area and the need to be prepared for the influx of new students to the eight district school campuses.

“It is important to vote,” she said, emphasizing she was not there to “sway” people to vote for the new tax rate.

Improvements are in the works on seven Vinton streets. They are Gold, Silver, Steel, Iron, Copper, Zinc and Hemley. The improvements include pavement overlays and handling storm water runoff. The budgeted cost is \$377,000. A bid package is in preparation.

There was also discussion about having a town meeting type arrangement at Village Hall where two council members would be on hand to answer questions and address concerns

of residents and bring those issues, if necessary, to a future council meeting. Legal ramifications of such a proposal is under review. The town meeting is tentatively scheduled for implementation in December.

The enforcement of local ordinances was discussed. It was pointed out that neither the justice of the peace nor the Sheriff’s Dept. can enforce the local ordinances. Alternatives considered were through possible special agreements with the Anthony Police Department or with sheriff’s deputies. Also weighed was the hiring of a village law enforcement officer.

No action was taken pending further discussions with other agencies.

October 10

San Elizario ISD

The board of trustees approved a correction to the previous salary adjustment it had passed, according to information from Cynthia Marentes, communications officer for the district. “Previously, the board had approved a 3 percent raise for support staff and a 2 percent raise for administrative staff. Support staff will also see a step increase in their salaries which will be determined according to length of service.”

George Luevano, director of support services, said work is on track for completion of new cafeteria at Alarcon Elementary and library and classroom wing at Garcia-Enriquez Middle School. Both school projects have been plagued by delays. It is projected that equipment would be moved in over the Christmas holi-

days. The new facilities would be in operation when students return from the holidays.

More than 500 parents, students, district personnel and members of the community attended a Fiesta for Health held Sept. 15. Activities were designed to build healthy families. For more information on the Building Healthy Families Project, call Leticia Morachiz at 780-6527.

Five district employees were honored for service.

Two were recognized for 30 years service. They are Doris Vargas, a monitor at Alarcon; and Maria Gamboa, a cross-guard/monitor at Loya Primary.

Three were honored for 20 years. They are Mary Mendez, a cafeteria worker at Alarcon Elementary; Maria Tel-Oren, a third-grade teacher at Alarcon and Rosalinda Garcia, a fifth-grade teacher at Borrego.


October 9

Canutillo ISD

The board of trustees approved an inter-local agreement with El Paso Community College for the Northwest Early College High School. Under the program students can earn college credits while attending high school.

Tony Reza, the executive director for business services, had good news for the board. He said CISD had earned a Superior rating in the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas.

Dr. Padilla reported that meetings would be held throughout October to inform votes of the upcoming tax rate rollback election. (See Vinton above.)



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It’s all about the money with some of the Yankees

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I’ve been sitting here trying to decide who is greedier, George Steinbrenner or Alex Rodriguez? And I still can’t make up my mind. Both are ridiculously famous. Both have more money than they know what to do with, and both spend the majority of their time thinking about their favorite subject — themselves.

When it came time to rehire the perfect man to lead the New York Yankees, Steinbrenner chose to disrespect Joe Torre and offer him a one-year deal with a cut in pay.

Of course, Torre, in his usually classy way, decided not to sign with the team. I can’t blame the guy. It’s true, he hasn’t led the team to a World Series title since 2000, but it was his calming influence in the clubhouse that couldn’t be measured in wins and losses.

He was the perfect buffer between the players and Steinbrenner.

But “the boss” thinks he knows more about baseball than Abner Doubleday. He couldn’t see what Torre did for him team, despite not

having much of a pitching staff.

Then there’s A-Rod. Seems \$252-million isn’t enough for the transplanted third baseman. Rodriguez, through his evil agent Scott Boras, announced this week that he was going to opt out of his contract with the Yankees and become a free agent.

Why a free agent? To see if he can get even more money!

What a refreshing change it would have been if Rodriguez had announced that he was staying with the team for the same amount of money. I mean, how much money does one guy need?

I guess like Latrell Sprewell, the poor guy has a family to feed.

Now the Yankees have offered the manager’s position to Joe Girardi. And because he was skipped over, assistant coach Don Mattingly has decided not to return to the Yankees next season.

So let’s take count, since the end of the season the Yankees have lost Joe Torre, Alex Rodriguez and Don Mattingly. Those are three pretty vital characters.

And at least two of the three are respected gentlemen. Rodriguez is just richer.

I think the Yankees are about to take a spill next season. There’s little doubt the team will lose a few more players and next year should see them lose a lot more games.

Trade Kobe already

The 2007-08 NBA season got underway this week and the sad Kobe Bryant saga continues.

The Los Angeles Lakers have played losing basketball since Bryant replaced Shaquille O’Neal as the main man in Hollywood. But the Lakers have continued to bow at his feet whenever he enters the Staples Center doors.

Now coach Phil Jackson has made his feelings known and he is none too happy.

Jackson was quoted as saying, “Obviously he [Kobe] hasn’t thrown his heart and soul into performing on the floor. That hurts me a little bit... he was going to work at this thing and put his full being into this. Right now, he’s having a hard time doing that.”

Jackson also said that something had to be done with Bryant, sooner than later, and that Bryant and the Lakers had reached the point of no return.

It seems as if the Chicago Bulls are the front-runners in the Kobe Bryant sweepstakes. If the

Lakers get rid of Kobe they will be much better off. All the new players would help them gel into a team.

Kobe will never lead a team to a title, he’s the A-Rod of the NBA.

And for those of you who are saying that Kobe won three titles with the Lakers, remember, Shaq was the team’s leader, not Kobe.

Pats of Colts

The biggest game of the regular season will be played this Sunday between the New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts.

Tom Brady against Peyton Manning. Randy Moss against Marvin Harrison. Bill Belichick against Tony Dungy.

Who will win and why? It’s simple.

The Colts are a five-point underdog but will knock off the Patriots this weekend.

Except for the Dallas Cowboys, the Patriots have played a very weak schedule. Don’t believe me, the other seven teams the Pats beat have a combined record of 18-33.

At the same time, the Colts have played teams with a combined 27-24 record.

Take the Colts. They won the Super Bowl, you know.

Maybe It Wasn’t That Heavy Shopping Bag.

Weakness On One Side May Mean A Stroke.

Recognizing the signs of stroke and acting fast may make a difference between life and death. Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience one or more of these signs: sudden weakness especially on one side of the body; trouble speaking or understanding; dizziness, loss of balance; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and severe headache with no known cause. New treatments can help reduce damage to the brain


but only in the first few hours after symptoms begin. Every minute counts.

To learn more about stroke, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit us online at www.americanheart.org/tx

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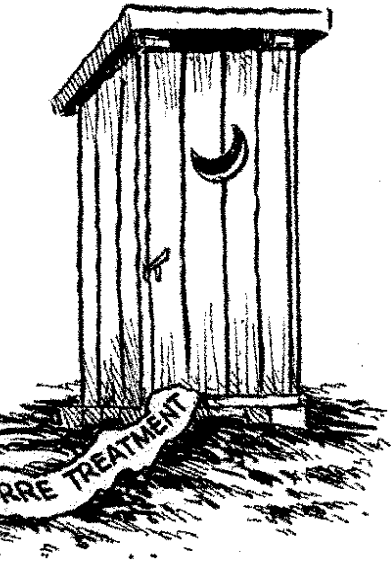
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Classified Ads

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
CSP NO. 199-1108-8009
ACCEPTED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

PAPER SUPPLIES
CSP NO. 199-1108-8010
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER

AUDIO/VIDEO/STUDIO/ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM
CSP NO. 199-1108-8022
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-10/18/07

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family, Health insurance and FEE SCALE AC-

CEPTED. Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

EDUCATION

JUMP START your child’s education. **CERTIFIED TEACHERS** for tutoring. Call Eddie, 52-1739, or Maribel, 525-9656.

DOCUMENT ASSISTANCE

Divorce documents prepared, includes petition, waiver, final decree. Covers children and property. \$275. (915) 851-1425.

GARAGE SALE

3rd Annual Garage Sale Canutillo Heights
Neighborhood Group Event

Over 20 families!

Saturday, Nov. 3, 7am-2pm (Los Mochis, btwn S. Desert & Doniphan in Canutillo – I10/Transmountain exit) Furniture, clothing, collectibles, items for all ages. Coffee, hot chocolate, goodies & food for purchase!

HELP WANTED

ELECTRICIAN

Several positions open. Contact J&G Electrical, 512 S. Main St., Roswell, NM. Call (575) 622-0146. EOE.

SELF-HELP

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

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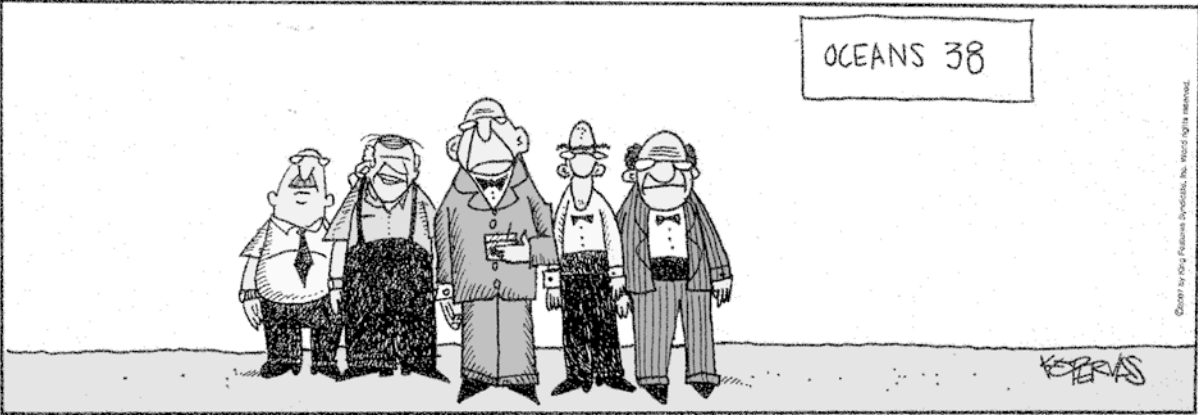
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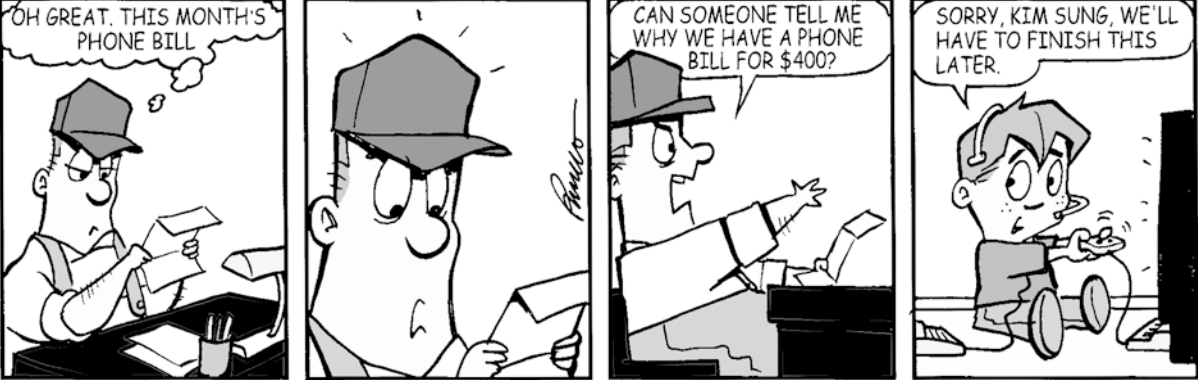
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



There’s a fire down below

By Don Flood

Have you installed a sprinkler system in your pants? Maybe it’s time you should.

The following is an important health tip for iPod Nano users: If you feel a strange burning sensation and you find your vision blurred because of flames and smoke, look down. Your pants may be on fire.

That’s what happened recently to Danny Williams of Douglassville, Ga. Williams, who is employed at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport — Motto: “The only thing longer than our name is our delays!” — was at work recently when he noticed his pants were on fire.

In an actual quote, Williams said, “So I look down and I see flames coming up to my chest.”

Coming up to his chest? How long was this man on fire? What were his co-workers doing?

“Hey, did you notice something unusual about Danny’s pants this morning? It looked like they were on fire.”

“Wow, somebody should tell him. That’s totally against the dress code.”

But you want to know, how can I protect my children and myself from pants fires, without resorting to the old asbestos pants and underpants of yesteryear?

To help readers like you, I have contacted the good folks at the Pants and Fire Safety Institute, headquartered in Washington, D.C. They are universally considered to be *the* experts in the field (except possibly by the competing experts at the Pants Fire Safety Association of America, also based in Washington).

The institute’s pants safety experts note that many iPod users are very involved in their music, so

much so that they don’t notice things such as their pants being on fire, or that they’re in the middle of their own wedding, or both.

For this reason, they have devised a checklist for iPod owners that may indicate the possibility of a fire emergency in their pants.

- Strange burning sensation.
- Flames arising from below, often nearing chest level.
- Watery eyes, caused by smoke coming from pants.
- Coughing, from the same cause.
- Profuse sweating.
- Smell of burning clothes or flesh, seemingly coming from right underneath your nostrils.
- People stopping to roast marshmallows and/or hot dogs in the vicinity of your pants.
- People rushing to record others who are roasting marshmallows and/or hot dogs so they can be the first to upload it on YouTube.

Experts stress that these last two stages are sure signs of a pants fire *in progress* and recommend that immediate steps be taken.

But what if it’s a friend’s pants that are on fire?

First of all, safety experts say, you must remain calm, as jerky hand motion might spoil what could be your best YouTube clip ever. (They also recommend using a title that will attract attention, such as “High School Hottie!”)

Once the clip is safely uploaded, quickly douse your friend, with a fire hose if possible, or at least advise him that his pants are on fire.

If all else fails, find the nearest first-grader, who will have the common sense to yell: “Stop, Drop and Roll!”

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dflood287@comcast.net

King Super Crossword

- APRIL SHOWERS

ACROSS

1 Renowned rabbit

5 Iraqi port

10 Wing it

15 Iowa hrs.

18 PDQ, politely

19 Synthetic fiber

20 Artemis, in Rome

21 Costa _

22 Beatrix Potter

book

25 "L_", c'est moi"

26 Stadium

27 Whirl

28 _ Dawn Chong

29 '60s talk-show

host

30 " _ go braght!"

33 Latin rhythm

36 Cooks chestnuts

38 "Hee Haw" regular

43 "Cara _" ('65 song)

44 Dirty

45 Maris of "Nurses"

46 Verve

47 Islamic deity

50 Wander

53 VDT unit

56 Creative type

58 John of "Madame X"

60 _-Magnon

61 Droop

63 Composer Rorem

64 Ordered

65 Herriman feline

66 Wont

69 Archery item

71 Fathers a foal

72 Get by, with "out"

73 Identical

74 Killjoys

77 " _ , bien!"

78 Sphere

79 "The Color Purple" character

80 "Well, I'll be!"

81 Modern melody

83 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq _"

84 Got off

85 Fitting

87 Organ of equilibrium

88 Seville shout

89 Arm bone

90 Kathy of country

93 Pageant prop

97 Gets mushy

99 Feathered friend?

101 Poorly

103 Drag along

104 Mortgage, for one

106 Gentle _ lamb

107 '68 Temptations song

110 Bearse or Blake

112 World-weary

114 Zeno's home

115 Horror-film extras

116 _ Aviv

118 Marx or Malden

121 "Later, Luis!"

125 Anesthetize an

audience

126 '80 Eddie Rabbitt hit

131 Hurler Hershiser

132 Feelings

133 Vestige

134 Hawaii's state bird

135 Present for pop

136 Steen stand

137 Long-legged wader

138 British school

DOWN

1 _ California

2 PC enthusiast

3 Go fish or golf

4 Grand relative

5 Showy scarf

6 French sculptor

7 Disparage

8 Emulated the Valkyries

9 24 Down's home

10 Citrus cooler

11 Accomplished

12 Designer Ashley

13 Cuzco native

14 They make lots of dough

15 '91 Billy Crystal film

16 Inadequate

17 "Soap" family

21 Fix

23 Creche figure

24 Domestic

guanacos

31 Rage

32 Vincent Lopez's theme song

34 Cheerful tune

35 Maglie or Mineo

37 Heaps

38 AAA handout

39 A mean Amin

40 Baseball's Steve

41 Caution

42 "Raid on _" ('77 film)

48 Activist Hoffman

49 TV's " _ Afire"

51 Actor Jonathan

52 Shoppers' sacks

54 Otherwise

55 73 Down escapee

57 Adored one

59 " _ Fideles"

62 Former military chairman

66 King or Lombard

67 American magnolia

68 Actress Mercouri

70 Witty one

71 Doubter

73 Biblical city

75 Cronus, for one

76 Tidy

77 Austin or Garr

79 Brought about

82 Inform

86 Inform

90 Southwestern sight

91 Skagway's state

92 Shampoo additive

94 Mohammed - Jinnah

95 Pantyhose problem

96 Mellow

98 Tree trim

100 "For Me and My _" ('17 song)

102 Actor Brynner

105 Homegrown

108 "Big Bad John" singer

109 Novelist Gordimer

110 Head monk

111 Native New Zealander

112 Hunks of gunk

113 Big revolver?

117 Director Kazan

119 Hard to find

120 Inventive sort?

122 " _ Around" ('64 hit)

123 "What have I done!"

124 British gun

127 Center of gravity?

128 New citizen's subj.

129 Sgt. or cpl.

130 Kyoto currency
- Answer Page 6

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Canutillo ISD holds ribbon cutting at Alderete Middle School Library-Science Building

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

Canutillo Independent School District held recently a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially dedicate the opening of the new Library-Science Building at Jose J. Alderete Middle School (AMS).

The ribbon-cutting ceremony heralded the completion of another phase of the renovation work being done at AMS, which became CISD's second middle school last school year. The library science building houses a 4,325 square-foot library, eight science labs, 48-station computer lab, and four additional classrooms.

Construction of the new \$3.24 million library and science building was funded through the \$39.03 million bond issue that district voters approved in February 2006.

“This is a magnificent building that enhances not only our facilities but also the quality of instruction. We have eight full-equipped science labs and a beautiful library that will be accessible not only to our students but also for the community,” said Annette Brigham, AMS principal.

AMS serves about 650 students in grades sixth through eighth. Architect for the new addition was Wright & Dalbin Architects. Contractor for the project was VEMAC Construction Company.



— Photo courtesy Canutillo ISD

SNIP IT — School officials and guests, from left, Yvonne S. Sanchez, board member; Shonda Jordan, board member; Mago Arellano, board member; Sergio Coronado, board member; Angel Alderete, Armando Rodriguez, board member; Dr. Pam Padilla, Superintendent; Jorge Loya, Wright & Dalbin Architects; Fred Dalbin, Wright & Dalbin Architects; Annette Brigham, AMS Principal; Rito Carrera, VEMAC; and Geoffrey Wright, Wright & Dalbin Architects join in the ribbon cutting at Alderete Middle School.

Nurses

From Page 1

techniques and procedures for promoting health, providing care for sick and disabled people. The program provides instruction in the administration of medicine and treatments, assisting a physician during treatments and examinations, referring patients to physicians, and planning education for health maintenance.

The program, which has been approved by the Texas Education Agency, will generate students that are eligible to apply for graduation with a certificate in Fundamentals of Nursing. Once that is complete, the students may apply for certification as a Nursing Assistant through the Texas Nurse Aide Registry following a completion of courses. Upon completing the Vocational Nursing Certificate, graduates are eligible to write the licensing examination for vocational nurses (NCLEX-PN). The students completing the Nursing Associate of Applied Science program are eligible to write the licensing examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Briefs

From Page 1

North Loop near Tenango Street when he was approached by a male who asked in English for the man's money. The victim gave the man his wallet, but the suspect pulled out a knife and viciously slashed the victim's neck and repeatedly stabbed him in the torso. The victim tried to return home but collapsed at 9100 Betel, where police found him after a neighbor's call. The victim was in critical condition at a local hospital and is now at home where he is still recovering from his wounds. Detectives from the Police Crimes Against Persons unit say the suspect is described as an Hispanic male, approximately 28 to 30 years old, 5-foot 6-inches tall, 180 pounds, medium-to-light complexion, with a mustache and short curly hair.

▪ FIRST ANNUAL ▪

Dog Lovers Fair

A Celebration of All Things Canine

This FREE event welcomes those chaperoning well behaved and leashed pets. Dogs make a house a home and for those with room and heart enough for one (or two!) more, the fair hosts several area animal rescue groups and PETsBARN's "Pet-to-Go" Adoption Trailer with dozens of eager canines seeking forever homes. These organizations will also dis-

tribute information and accept donations. Animal-oriented pet services and businesses will also participate. There will be exhibits, demonstrations and interactive fun for dogs; get your pet's photo taken with Santa; enter Canine Contests and vie for fun toys and treats; and random drawings and door prizes for people, too!

Bill Clifton and Melissa Kerr of Sunny 99.9 FM will also be there!



FREE ADMISSION

NOVEMBER 17 • 2007

Saturday • 10 am – 4 pm

benefitting the
Humane Society of El Paso

Adopt a Pet at the PETsBARN
Pet-to-Go
Adoption Trailer

Adoptions only will continue Sunday
10 am – 4 pm at El Paso Saddleblanket



Refreshments for people and canines... check out the **Doggie Deli!**





Participating Animal-Oriented Pet Services and Groups:

- Animal Nannie
- Barkerhaus Kennels
- Cloe's Barkery and Café
- The Dog Stop
- Doggie Dearest Grooming
- Dogs on the Run Grooming
- Dwayne Stearns—U.S. Customs
- El Paso Police Dept.—K9 Unit
- Fo-Paws
- Greyt Catering and BBQ
- Paws for Love
- Pile Techs
- Reidsan Kennels In The Grove
- Rio Grande Obedience Club

Animal Welfare and Non-Profit Rescue Groups:

- Humane Society of El Paso
- Animal Cruelty Heartline of El Paso (ACHE)
- Animal Rescue League
- Chantelle's Standard Poodle Rescue
- EPSHARE
- From the Heart Rescue
- Great Dane Rescue
- Lone Star Greyhounds/ Greyhound Pets of America
- Jeff Davis County Humane Society
- Pet Haven
- Southwest Collie Rescue

El Paso SADDLEBLANKET

Held in the EPSB Parking Lot

Microchipping will be available Saturday from El Paso Animal Regulation and Disease Control's **Pet Care-A-Van**



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