

# Clint ISD tries to pass bond

By **Gustavo Reveles Acosta**

El Paso Times

The \$90 million the Clint Independent School District wants voters to approve in May would build one new high school, one middle school and one elementary school to cope with the growth in the booming areas around Horizon High School.

The district late last week revealed the project list for its bond program, which also includes renovations to all district schools and additions to many.

"We are trying to really keep up with growth, but we recognize that we need to address issues

## Early voting

Early voting will be from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 2 to 5 and May 8 and 9 at:

- ▶ **Clint Junior High, 13100 Alameda.**
- ▶ **Montana Vista Elementary, 3550 Mark Jason.**
- ▶ **Oz Glaze Senior Center, 13969 Vinny Webb.**
- ▶ **Extended-hour voting will be from 5 to 9 p.m. May 4 at every campus in the district.**

throughout the district," Superintendent Ricardo Estrada said. "This bond will give us a couple of years of breathing room."

Election day is May 13. Early voting will be May 1 to May 9.

The three new campuses in the bond program would most likely be built north of Interstate 10 and south of Horizon City. The district also serves the town of Clint and the Montana Vista area.

The district expects its enrollment to more than double within five years. There are now about 9,400 students in Clint — the fourth-largest school district in the county.

Clint built Horizon High School in 2002 and will open Horizon Middle School later this spring to handle the growth in the city.

But projections show that the area will get about 1,100 new homes in the next couple of years, each home bringing in about three children.

Estrada said the district is also looking at getting growth because of the Base Realignment and Closure process, which is expected to

bring thousands of soldiers to Fort Bliss.

"We can't forget that we are also a part of BRAC," he said.

Administrators and board members said the existing campuses in the slow-growth area of the district — the town of Clint and Montana Vista — will also be benefited by the bond.

The current Clint High School — whose students would attend the new high school being built north of I-10 — would be refurbished and converted into a junior high with grades six through eight.

The current Clint Junior High

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# Clint

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School would become an intermediate school with grades four and five, while Surratt Elementary School would become a pre-kindergarten through third-grade campus. All schools would get renovations.

In the Horizon area, Welch Intermediate would get a new kitchen and an 18-classroom addition, among other projects; Desert

Hills Elementary School would get a new gym, 12 new classrooms and four new computer labs; Frank Macias Elementary School also would get a new gym.

The major projects in the Montana Vista area would include the construction of a fine-arts facility at East Montana Middle School, a 12-classroom wing and library extension at Mountain View High School and a new gym and classroom addition at Montana Vista Elementary School.

A new gym also would be built at Red Sands Elementary School. Board President James Pendell

said all work would most likely receive a state grant known as the Instructional Facilities Allotment, or IFA.

"The reason we went out to the voters when we did is because we are so confident of getting these IFA funds," Pendell said. "If we pass it, Clint is getting a \$70 million Christmas gift from the state."

IFA is a state matching fund that helps poor, growing school districts build whole schools or additions specifically for instruction. Clint expects to receive 85 percent of the \$90 million in the bond paid by the state.

If approved, and with the help of IFA and other state funding, the districts expects the tax rate to increase by 12 cents. The current tax rate is \$1.71 per \$100 valuation.

The average district home worth \$65,925 would see its annual tax bill increase by \$59, to \$930.

"It's not that bad. I wouldn't mind paying that much more for better schools," said Rebecca Solis, a Horizon City resident. "If we want good schools we have to invest."

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"CORRECTION

March 18, 2006 •• 34 words •• ID: elp28731315 The new Clint Independent School District high school will be built south of Interstate 10 if voters approve the bond package next month. The proposed location was incorrect in last week's El Paso Times. "