

OPINION:
The Texas law allowing teachers to carry guns is cause for concern.
▶ A7



WEEKEND TICKET:
Christian bands will be rocking out at the fairgrounds.
▶ B5



THURSDAY
August 28, 2008

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THE IMPERIAL VALLEY'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

—TEMPS—
107° 82°
Friday's high: 107°
low: 80°
Scattered thunderstorms today. Partly cloudy Friday. See more weather, B4.

—REGION—

Car fire causes big troubles for Imperial Valley College students.
» See Region, A4

—NEWS TIP—
Have a story idea? Visit www.ivpressonline.com and click on the "News Tip" icon.

—PROBE—
When will an El Centro subdivision see the improvements paid for by homeowners?
» See Page Two

—THAT'S ODD—

HICKMAN, Neb. — This one-horse town is looking like becoming a no-horse town. The owner of a 32-year-old horse named Peter Rabbit wasn't able Tuesday to buck a local ban on livestock within city limits. After widespread publicity of the ban that threatened to kick Peter Rabbit off the pasture where he was born, the Hickman City Council considered an ordinance Tuesday night that would allow horses inside city limits. But council members ultimately voted 4-2 against adopting it, leaving the ban intact. Councilwoman Kim Hoelsing has long supported allowing horses. After Tuesday's vote, she said she hoped the issue would die down because "I can't get anyone to agree with me."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

—DEATHS—
Donald Deihl, 77
Former Imperial Valley resident
Leo Fernandez, 46
Brawley
See Obituaries, A6

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AREA CODE REVISITED



JOSELITO VILLERO PHOTO

Assorted business cards sit on a counter near the desk of Imperial County office assistant Jamie Garcia. Current phone numbers would retain the 760 area code under a new plan to be considered by the Public Utility Commission. Existing businesses would not have to change already-printed items.

442 to join 760 locally?

► **COMMISSION:**
Is rethinking decision made earlier this year.

By ERIC GALVAN
Staff Writer

As soon as November, Imperial County residents could be dialing a 10-digit number starting with a 442 area code just to reach their neighbors.

Nearly four months after the California Public Utilities Commission board voted to split northeast San Diego County into two area codes — and leave Imperial County and most of eastern California with the 760 area code — the PUC has decided to revisit the decision.

Pushed by the



VICENTA ADELE MAPILIS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

New phone numbers would bear the 442 area code under a plan pushed by San Diego-area chambers of commerce.

chambers of commerce in Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, San Marcos, Oceanside and Vista, which filed a Petition for Modification of Decision, the PUC will decide Oct. 16 whether to uphold its original decision or adopt an alternative.

Should the PUC go with an alternative, it would be implemented Nov. 8. The preferred alternative would allow for an overlay of area codes, which would keep 760 for customers in the existing counties and cities but force new phone numbers to use the 442 area code.

"The overlay could have an economic impact if you add additional lines," said

» See AREA CODE/A6

Response is suggested by E.C. chamber

The El Centro Chamber of Commerce penned a response that it recommends residents send to the PUC.

It reads:
"I respectfully request the commission take no action to modify Decision 08-04-058. As a member of the Imperial County business community, I applaud and support the commission's decision made on April 24,

» See RESPONSE/A6

City's work hours shift

► **BRAWLEY:**

Offices to be closed every other Friday.

By BROOKE RUTH
Digital Media
News Editor

BRAWLEY — The city of Brawley will follow Imperial Irrigation District and the city of El Centro in implementing an alternative work schedule.

This will mean city offices will be closed every other Friday, and have longer hours on the days they are opened.

"We are hopeful that by expanding hours during the nine days it will offset any issues customers may have with the one Friday we are not open," said Brawley City Manager Gary Burroughs.

Monday through Thursday the offices will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on the alternate Friday they will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» See BRAWLEY/A6

Cultures appeal to exchange students

► **SDSU-IV:**

Offers international business program.

By BROOKE RUTH
Digital Media
News Editor

Claudine Attard, an international student from France, said it is interesting to see the blend of cultures in her new host city of Calexico.

Attard will study international business at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus for the next year.

» See STUDENTS/A6

VOICES OF THE VALLEY

Students pensive about dreams for new school year

By JONATHAN DALE
Special Sections Coordinator

HOLTVILLE — It's that time of year when school bells once

again put dread into the hearts of Imperial Valley students.

Thousands of kids from 5 years old to 18 (not including college students) have begun

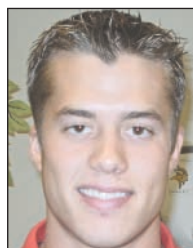
the 2008-2009 school year, each with their own dreams and aspirations for the year.

Holtville High students got a chance Wednesday morning to

share their individual goals for the next 10 months.

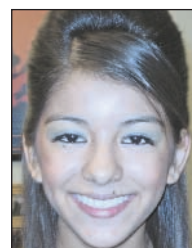
» Special Sections Coordinator Jonathan Dale can be reached at 337-3440 or at jdale@ivpressonline.com

"My main goal is to graduate, and I'm on a good track. My credits are all going to be aligned this year. "Also I'd like to do pretty good in art because I'd like to become a landscape engineer or landscape artist."



SHELBY DRYE
17, senior

"I plan on passing all my classes with no less than a B, and getting on honor roll and getting in the top 10 in my class. "For Mock Trial, I plan on getting our group to get to the state finals."



SAMANTHA VENEGAS
16, junior

"My goals this year are to get good enough grades to attend a college, most likely in San Diego, so that I can get a decent career such as electrical engineering and then come back to see everybody. "I just want to make everybody proud."



JUSTIN MARTIN
17, senior

"I want to become the top student of the sophomore class, so I have to work really, really hard. "I want to focus more on academics and not so much on sports and FFA like I did last year."



BROOKE BRADSHAW
15, sophomore

"For this school year my goals are to have a really good year in sports; I'm really looking forward to soccer. "Also Holtville is turning 100 years old and we're really looking forward to that as a class."



RAMON RAMOS
17, senior



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