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BOCC (Cont. from 1)

Preliminary balanced budget The El Paso County Financial Services Department presented the preliminary balanced budget at the Oct. 3 BOCC meeting.

The \$385.6 million budget includes \$127.8 million in discretionary revenue that the BOCC will distribute to provide core services such as public safety and infrastructure. The remainder goes to projects and programs set by state or federal law or other restrictions that the commissioners cannot alter.

Highlights of the preliminary budget include critical facility infrastructure maintenance and increased funding for the county's Veteran's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and Pre-Trial Services. It includes an approximate \$4 million TABOR refund to property taxpayers.

El Paso County Controller Nikki Simmons said, "Even though the economy is doing well, we have a very tight budget in 2020. We will be focusing on the TABOR refund and covering basic services."

As part of the budget setting pro-

cess, county departments and offices presented their critical needs to the commissioners at the Oct. 15 and 17 BOCC meetings. Further budget hearings are scheduled for Nov. 14 and Dec. 10, and members of the public are encouraged to attend these meetings to express their views on the budget allocations. The preliminary balanced budget can be viewed on the county website at https://admin.elpasoco.com/ financial-services/budget-finance/ county-budget/.

Struthers Road/ Gleneagle Drive intersection project

At their Oct. 8 meeting, the commissioners approved a memorandum of agreement, a non-exclusive permanent easement, and a temporary construction easement agreement for the Struthers Road/Gleneagle Drive intersection project. The easements are coming from property owner MPCOS LLC at a cost of \$35,016.

The project, which will see a roundabout constructed in place of the current four-way stop, also includes drainage work and pedestrian improvements, both at the intersection



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