

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

VOL. 29, No. 50

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABENS, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

DECEMBER 12, 2002

NEWSBRIEFS

Publishing early

Due to the holiday printing schedule, the Courier will go to press early for the last issue of 2002 and the first issue of 2003. For the issue of Dec. 26, deadline for ad and news copy will be Dec. 20. For the issue of Jan. 2, the deadline will be Dec. 27. For more information call 852-3235.

Socorro ISD meeting

Socorro ISD parents, the public, members of the superintendent search committee and representatives of the Ray and Associates search firm will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 to obtain public opinion regarding a permanent superintendent for the Socorro schools. The meeting will be held at the SISD Education Center Board room, 12300 Eastlake Drive.

11th Annual Festival

The El Paso Mission Trail is sponsoring the 11th Annual Luminaria Festival and Posada on Dec. 14 as the Mission Trail is lit once again with about 30,000 luminarias. The communities of Ysleta, Socorro and San Elizario will light up at about 6 p.m. as a posada recreating the journey of Mary and Joseph will pass along three routes. One route will be from 108 Old Pueblo Rd. to the Tigua Cultural Center; one from 10300 Socorro Rd. to the Socorro Mission; and a third in the San Elizario Plaza. All three historic missions in these communities will participate.

Giving Tree now open

The communities of Fabens, Tornillo, Ft. Hancock and San Elizario, along with the Caseta, Barreales and Guadalupe areas have placed over 200 names on the "Giving Tree" located at Ryan Supply/Ace Hardware in Fabens, 117 N. Fabens St. Community members are invited to choose a name tag from the tree which provides a bit of personal history, a gift suggestion and a fictitious name. Persons on the tags are struggling to make ends meet or will simply spend the holidays alone. It should be noted that those named on the tags are not aware they have a tag on the tree, and are not expecting a gift. Organizer Kit Ryan said gifts should be wrapped and returned to the store by Dec. 20 so they can be given to the corresponding tag holder. Ryan said people listed on the tags range from newborns to elderly, and there are gift requests to fit every budget. She said requests range from food or fingernail polish to a bicycle or a heater, but she noted that most are for everyday items like shoes, socks, gloves, etc. Ryan Supply is also accepting non-perishable food, sweaters, jackets and warm clothing in good condition for distribution to local charitable agencies. For more information call 764-2239.

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Character, like sweet herbs, should give off its finest fragrance when pressed.

— Quips and Quotes

San Eli's Alvidrez named Wendy's Heisman winner for Texas

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Any distance runner will tell you that it's not necessarily how you start the race, but how you finish it. There are many elements needed for that strong finish, but one of the most important aspects of the race is how you pace yourself, how every breath coincides with the stride of your feet and how it forms a rhythm.

That's when you get into the zone, when suddenly you're running against yourself. It's solid and graceful. As a distance runner who finished in the top ten at the state meet last month, Irving Alvidrez knows all about finishing strong on the track. But he also knows how to apply that philosophy to the classroom as well as outside of school.

That's why the San Elizario High School senior was named the 2002 Wendy's Heisman winner for the state of Texas. The award honors male and female high school athletes who are leaders on their teams, in their classrooms



Irving Alvidrez

and their communities. He is now one of only 107 students across the nation that will move onto the next round of the national competition.

"These students have been singled out as some of the remarkable and inspiring seniors across the country," said Tom Mueller, presi-

dent and chief operating officer for Wendy's North America. "We are pleased to recognize them for their outstanding achievements."

Born in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico, Alvidrez is currently ranked fifth in his senior class and has been a leader on the school's cross-country team for the past four years. Despite his academic and athletic successes, Alvidrez has also found the time to work 20 to 25 hours a week at K-Mart — even during the track season.

"I'm just always on the go," he said. "It's good to compete against yourself and challenge yourself."

With the help of Dicky Garza, a counselor at San Elizario High School, Alvidrez applied for the Wendy's Heisman award during his junior year. And despite his competitive nature — he says that every day is a friendly competitive battle between students ranked in the top five of his class — it was a fellow student in the top five that he chose to write his essay about for the Wendy's application.

"Valerie Barraza is a very competitive

See HEISMAN, Page 6

LVWD's manager says El Paso's water unfairly distributed

(The following article appeared in the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram on Sun, Dec. 1, 2002 and is reprinted with permission of The Associated Press.)

By Chris Roberts
Associated Press

CLINT — Arturo Duran oversees an agency (the Lower Valley Water District) that supplies water and sewer services to a swath of desert, 10 miles southeast of El Paso, that is home to about 11,000 customers.

Many of the area's residents are immigrants who live in ramshackle settlements known as colonias. And many of them lack basic services, like water and sewer, that people in other parts of Texas take for granted.

When El Paso Water Utilities sought a \$15 million grant to expand a local water-treatment plant's capacity by 20 million gallons a day, Duran said, it was approved because it would help his impoverished district.

But, Duran said, his customers only need five million gallons, and his district has enough water to meet the expected demand for the next 30 years — five years longer than the water treatment plant's life expectancy.

"We don't need the water...we will not get one drop of the water they claim we will be using," said Duran, general manager of the Lower Valley Water District.

The water could end up supplying El Paso. Duran accuses the El Paso Water Utilities of using his district's poverty as a tool to get federal money for projects that don't help his customers.

Ed Archuleta, general manager of El Paso Water Utilities, answered Duran's charge using a broad brush to describe the work of the water utility.

Archuleta said that the utility is planning for all the people in El Paso and its surroundings

— 165,000 customers inside the city limits and 15,000 outside. He said that the utility has successfully connected many of the low-income colonias to water service.

"We consider this whole colonia development system a success story," he said.

Further, the agency that gave El Paso Water Utilities the money to expand the Jonathan W. Rogers Water Treatment Plant doesn't seem troubled by Duran's accusations.

The North American Development Bank provided the grant to raise the plant's capacity from 40 to 60 million gallons per day, with the expectation that 20 million gallons would go to Duran's Lower Valley Water District.

NAD Bank officials said they haven't received any formal complaints about the grant process, although they are aware of Duran's displeasure.

"The covenants [of the grant] are all being complied with at this point," said Jose Ruiz, a NAD Bank project development officer. The utility "met all of the criteria for receiving the grant."

Duran said that if the NAD Bank really wanted to help the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people in his district who live without running water, it could have used the \$15 million to connect most of them to the system. He is looking for other grants to do the job.

"You see all these colonias?" Duran asked. "We need to improve economic prosperity for El Paso County. We need to provide basic services for this area."

El Paso County has about 205 colonias, settlements populated mainly by immigrants who bought barren land offered at dirt-cheap prices in areas with little or no regulation on development. Of those, 125 are in the Lower Valley Water District, and 80 have no water or sewer service, Duran said. The average annual household income in the district is about



Arturo Duran

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Alicia Chacón retires as director for United Way of El Paso County

EL PASO COUNTY — The Board of Directors of United Way of El Paso County announced today that former County Judge and community leader, Alicia R. Chacón plans to retire as the Executive Director of United Way of El Paso County at the close of this year's fundraising campaign on Jan. 31, 2003.

Mrs. Chacón has served as Executive Director of the organization since May of 1996. During her tenure, the United Way of El Paso County's annual contributions have increased 25.7 percent and this year the organization's campaign is expected to surpass \$5,000,000. United Way has also, under Mrs. Chacón, increased the number of agencies it funds by 18.

Mrs. Chacón tenure also included the generation of non-traditional revenues by developing collaborations with the Dallas Cowboys, The Meadows Foundation, Wells Fargo, the Sun Bowl Association the Abell-Hanger Foundation, Organized Labor and the Border Fund a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation.

"When I was first came to United Way, the Board asked me to 'help the community take ownership of United Way.' This has been my goal and also the key to our success," said Alicia R. Chacón. "It has been a privilege to represent this great organization in every neighborhood and every sector of our community and to bring El Pasoans together to build a better a community. The support I have received from our Board of Directors has been exceptional and the generosity of our community is simply amazing!"

"As the Executive Director of the United Way of El Paso County, Alicia Chacón has been instrumental in bringing a great deal of financial support to El Paso's United Way agencies. Her leadership and vision at the United Way have helped El Paso to be the caring community that it is," said Maliza Cox, El Paso Children's Day Association Executive Director. "She has been a good friend to all the United Way agencies and we all wish her the best in her retirement."



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

A culture of lies

We used to have sing-song rhymes about it when we were kids.

"Liar, liar, two by four, can't get through the kitchen door."

Sometimes those rhymes were a little closer to home.

"Liar, liar, pants on fire."

Now that we are adults we just call it political correctness.

We live in a culture of lies. Lying runs so deep as to be acceptable at all levels of society. It is the oil that makes the wheels of civilization turn smoothly, right?

We even grade our lies: White is good, black is bad. White ones are told under the guise of not hurting other people's feelings. Black ones are told to keep ourselves out of trouble, maybe out of jail. Our grandparents probably called them all "bald-faced."

On any given day the front pages of our newspapers are full of lies. We know it and read right on anyway.

Just this week, Saddam Hussein delivered a 12,000-page lie to the United Nations. The Iraqi president claims his regime does not have any programs for developing "banned" nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

Well, I'm sure relieved to hear that. But wait! President George W. Bush says Saddam is lying!

Still, his own rebuttal is a lie. He says he is simply "skeptical" and that there will be no "pre-judgment" of the validity of Saddam's statements.

In view of the old "pants on fire" theory, I would say these boys are both on the hot seat right about now.

Our Congress lies all the time. If you go by what they say, most Democrats don't think a tax cut is a good

idea and don't believe that President Bush should have the right to commit our nation to war. If you go by how they voted, they wouldn't fit through the kitchen door.

The laws of this nation are designed to make liars out of people. Every court hearing is designed to see who can be the biggest liar without getting called on it.

When I was a kid, the truth really did mean the *whole* truth. If I said I didn't set the haystack on fire, but neglected to say I watched my cousin do it, my pants would be warm from something other than fire.

In a court of law, however, it is a practiced art to see how much you can get by without telling — and the law allows that a jury cannot consider "prior bad acts" even if it means dismissing murder charges against a serial murderer.

Therefore, the oath the witness must take as he solemnly raises his hand and promises "to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" is a lie.

In a court case here in El Paso, it seems this soldier who had his brother kill his pregnant wife told everybody and their dog that he was going to do it, according to testimony this week, but the law will not hold those he told responsible even though some admitted they believed he was serious.

One woman said she felt bad now that she didn't inform authorities. Still, accounts of her testimony say she "chuckled" when she said it. Liar, liar.

Meanwhile, the law itself tells lies. On one hand, "the people" declare

NEWS ITEM:
THE FDA APPROVES THE SALE OF AT-HOME DEFIBRILLATORS...



See LIES, Page 7

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SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, FABIENS, SAN ELIZABO AND TORNILLO

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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.

AD DEADLINE:
Monday 4 p.m. for Thursday publication.

CLASSIFIED RATES
\$5 for 15 words, \$10 for 35 words. Ad must be in writing and pre-paid. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print classified advertising it considers inappropriate.

DISPLAY RATES:
Open rate — \$16 per column inch. Call for more information or to set an appointment. The *Courier* reserves the right not to print advertising it considers inappropriate.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
52 issues for \$30. Delivery via 1st class mail.

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15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

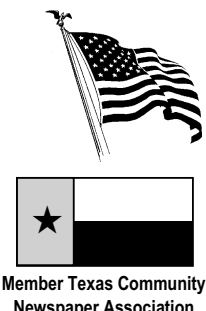
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For Sanity's Sake

By Taprina Milburn

Motor home trip

Part two

A reader recently asked me to write about the second part of my family's experience with a recreational vehicle.

You see, a year or so ago my husband and I thought it would be fun to rent a camper-size RV, but when we got to the lot there was only a 38-footer available.

Most people would have been intimidated by a motor home the size of a Greyhound bus. We, however, never turn down a challenge, even if the biggest vehicle we've ever driven is my minivan.

We were briefed on the function of the numerous buttons inside and out and given a lecture about air brakes and the necessity of regularly dumping potty waste. Equipped with just enough knowledge to be dangerous, we drove home, only to get the RV stuck on a low brick wall that lines our driveway.

After we said goodbye to the policemen who had to redirect traffic in our neighborhood because the back half of the motor home was blocking the road, and after I wrote a \$150 check to the wrecker service that lifted the 28,000-pound apartment off the brick wall, my husband said we were canceling our trip and returning the RV to the lot the next morning.

But the morning came and the kids woke up to see the RV parked in front of our house. The events of the night before seemed long past us.

Life was grand.

How hard could it be to drive down the highway anyway? After all, we'd certainly learned that the most dif-

icult part was getting in and out of a driveway.

We packed up and headed to hilly Arkansas, a state with narrow, winding roads.

Did I mention that we have a problem accessing our common sense?

The kids were in heaven, though, despite the fact that their parents were a nervous wreck. We had two televisions, a microwave to pop popcorn, a queen size bed in the back, and we didn't even have to stop for potty breaks, because we were carrying our own bathroom with us.

All of this would have made for a great vacation except that you have to get off the highway at some point if you want to see Arkansas. And when you pull off you have to find some place to park.

"Can we stop at McDonald's?" the kids asked.

We pulled in and soon learned that the parking lot was designed only for normal cars.

"There's no place to park," my husband said.

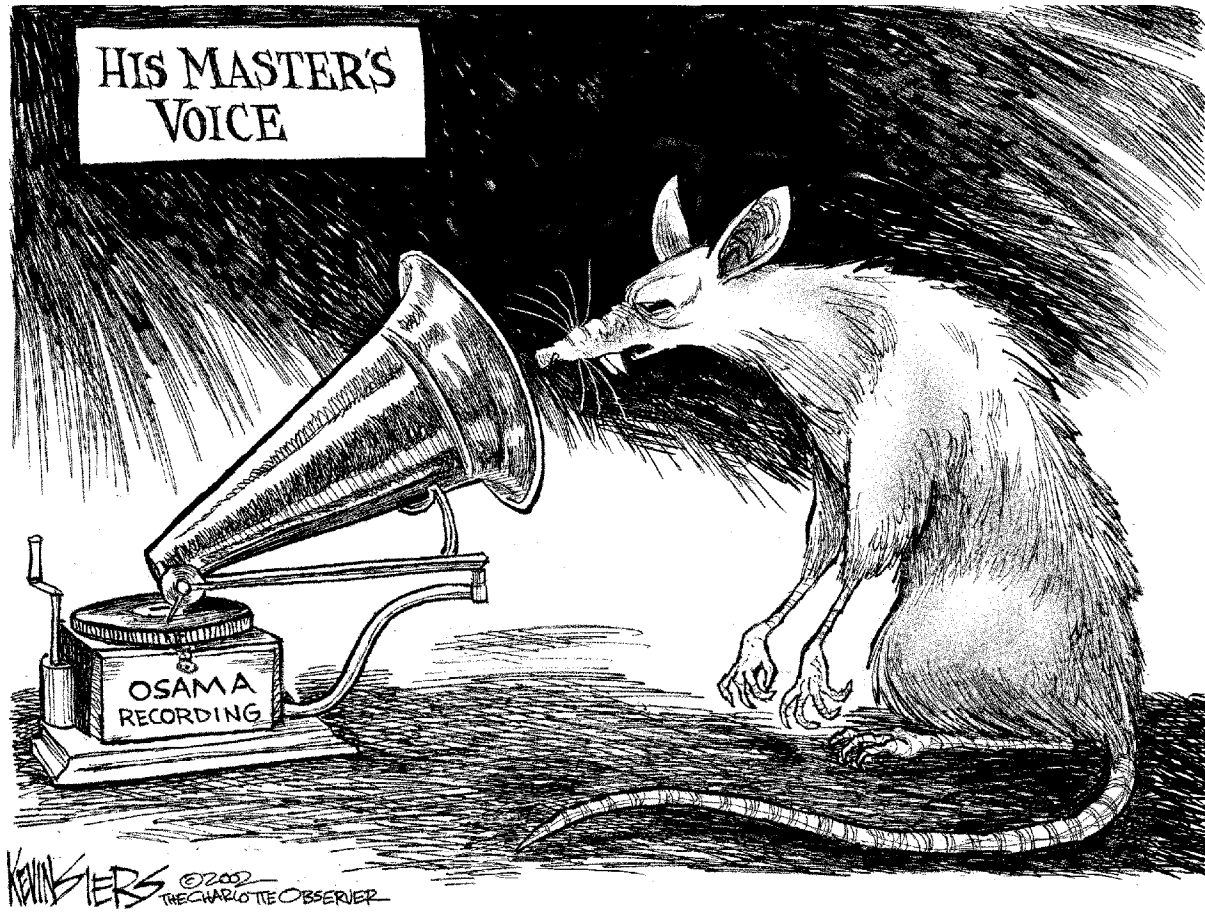
I spotted a grocery store across the street with a large parking lot. (We quickly learned that you look for restaurants close to a spacious Wal-mart parking lot and gas stations that service truckers.)

We did, however, see Arkansas in a way that we've never seen it before. Just as my 70-pound golden retriever thinks she's the size of a toy poodle, we still had in our mind that we were small enough to maneuver in and out of streets as we do in my van.

Our minds changed though as we knocked down small trees and nearly took out a few mailboxes on a sightseeing tour through a beautiful, wooded neighborhood. Residents stood on their lawns in disbelief.

"I really want to go home," I told my husband as I drove up a narrow, steep hill. The RV, wider than the

See TRIP, Page 7



The public is invited to an open house next week at the Texas Tech Wellness Center located in the new Pete Duarte Headstart Building.

Horizon City Wellness Center to hold open house on Dec. 17

HORIZON CITY — Texas Tech will hold open house for the new Wellness Center at the Pete Duarte Headstart Building, 12583 Darrington Road in Horizon City, from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Dec. 17, according to Larry Maese, Director of Special Projects for Texas Tech Medical Center.

In January, Texas Tech will officially open the new Wellness Center to begin serving the public. The facility also houses the Head Start program for children of pre-school age.

This Wellness Center will focus on children from newborn to eighteen. This Center is focused on bringing medical resources to children, and their families, living in the East County.

The Center brings together Texas Tech, the Clint ISD, local clergy, businesses and medical resources along with parents and kids.

Beginning in January, the Center will be staffed by a pediatrician from Texas Tech. Referrals to other Tech physicians, social workers, nutritionists, nurse practitioners and community health advocates will originate from this office.

Maese said 80-85 percent of the population to be served is considered indigent, therefore, all patients will be billed according to income. Charges will be dropped for those unable to pay and no child will be denied care.

The general public is invited to attend the Open House. For more information, call 545-6816.

Pepperoni's Pizza & Deli

852-2544
Limited Delivery Area

Chinese Food
Burgers & Subs



Notice of Public Hearing Tornillo Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of Tornillo ISD will conduct a Public Hearing on the annual A.E.I.S. Report (Academic Excellence Indicator System) for Tornillo ISD. The meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M., Monday, December 16, 2002 in the Administration Building at 19200 Cobb, Tornillo, Texas.

Parents of children attending Tornillo ISD schools are encouraged to attend.

WTCC: 12/12/02

Eye on D.C. By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla



Just a letter from home

As our nation fights the War on Terrorism, we place our lives and liberties in the hands of the brave men and women fighting on the front lines. These individuals risk their lives every day to preserve our freedom and safety. While we attend holiday parties and decorate our trees, our troops find themselves alone in foreign territory. Now, more than ever, it is paramount that we rally behind our troops and show our support.

When I think of our troops away from home over the holiday season, I am reminded of a story I heard many years ago. During the Vietnam War, Sgt. Billy Thompson sent a simple holiday request to news columnist Abigail Van Buren. He suggested that "just a letter from home" would make a wonderful Christmas present. This resulted in the holiday letter writing campaign called "Operation Dear Abby."

For 17 years, American citizens sent letters and cards to servicemen deployed away from home. These cards served to boost morale and spread holiday cheer to thousands of military personnel.

Many years later, during Operation Desert Storm, a new letter-writing campaign was born. Rather than focus only on the holiday season, "Any Servicemember" aimed to promote troops morale year round. During operations in Bosnia, the campaign continued to grow and brought joy to many members of armed services.

Unfortunately, recent threats of Anthrax and biological warfare, have made delivering large amounts of mail

to our troops unsafe. The Department of Defense was forced to announce that both of these highly successful campaigns would be indefinitely suspended. In the midst of a new kind of war, we must find new means of supporting our servicemen and women.

In light of these events, the Navy created a web-based alternative to traditional letter-writing campaigns. The new "Any Servicemember" web site, provides a simple system to send e-mail greetings to our troops. Anyone wishing a reply to their message, need only to include a return e-mail address. This simple process allows those sending the message to choose any branch of the military to send their greetings. While our troops will miss the brightly-colored envelopes and picturesque cards, they are excited about the convenience of e-mail.

As our troops face new challenges, we must demonstrate the true conviction for our armed services. Each person must do their part to help boost the morale of those who will not be home for the holidays. I urge each of you to participate in this thoughtful and patriotic campaign. It will take only a few minutes, but think of the joy it will bring to these very special and admirable men and women.

For more information about the Navy's "Any Servicemember" campaign visit:

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/>

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Dec. 3, 1854, 100 Polish families arrive in Galveston marking the beginning of a major Polish immigration to Texas.



Canutillo, San Elizario NJROTC units hold annual inspections

Canutillo cadets practiced hard

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School NJROTC program was host recently to Admiral Paul Arthur, retired admiral from White Sands Missile Range, and retired Navy Captain Joe LaRocca, Naval District Area 10 manager in San Antonio, as the two visiting naval officers were on-hand to conduct CHS's annual military inspection of the student cadets.

"We had to do a lot to get ready for inspection including practice marching drills and review naval information, such as general orders, chain of command and naval terminology," said CHS Student Commander Vicente Garcia, senior.

Charles Young, retired Marine Captain and



UNDER THE EAGLE EYE — Canutillo High School NJROTC program held its annual inspection recently. Captain Joe LaRocca, center, inspects cadet Lissette Fragoso, freshman, with Student Commander Vicente Garcia, background, and Student Executive Officer Ramon Mercado, foreground.

advisor for Canutillo's NJROTC program, said that the inspection went very well overall with high marks in supply and administrative duties. "I was especially proud of my cadets because they stood in formation for about three hours during the personnel inspection," said Young.

Petty Officer First Class Pete Soto, CHS military instructor, said that 80 students participated in the annual inspection. Soto said that the inspecting officer was very complimentary of the cadet officers' power point presentation and about their plans after graduation.

Guests attending the annual event were Coast Guard Chief Dirk Hepworth, El Paso recruiter; Marine

recruiters Sargeant Anselmo Figueroa, Private Humberto Solis, 2002 graduate of Andress High School, and Private Robert Heier, 2002 graduate of Irvin High School.

Second year program in San Eli



Cadet Erica Campos

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — "Exceptionally well" is the way Col. Roy Gray describes the results of the first AMI (Annual Military Inspection) of the new Naval Junior ROTC unit at San Elizario High School.

Senior officers headed by Navy Capt. Joseph LaRocca inspected the 110-member NJROTC battalion formed in front of the gym on the high school campus.

"The evaluation was hard and tough," the retired Marine Corps colonel said. "They didn't pull any punches." He added there were numerous areas rated outstanding during the inspection. Gray said the results attained by the cadets in the inspection have set a "benchmark" of performance for the future.

"We have put together a team," said Superintendent Mike Quatrini, referring to Gray and his second in command, Chief Manuel Jaquez. "We are very fortunate to have Gray and Jaquez. We have created a strong foundation."

High school principal Jerilyn DeFrank is impressed with the NJROTC three-year pro-

gram which is in its second year in the district. She sees the extracurricular program as one in which all students can be involved, regardless of their particular aptitudes.

She praised the program for the way in which it instills patriotism and respect for the American flag. She said it as an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. "Parents have seen their kids taking leadership roles — are seeing them in charge — seeing their kids lead another group of kids."

One of those kids is Cadet Ensign Miriam Eguado, a junior who is a platoon leader.

"I never thought I could be a platoon commander," she said. "I feel it will make me a better person."

Observing the inspection was her mother Maria. "She likes the discipline," she said of her daughter. "It helps her accomplish her goals. She feels really proud," the mother adds.

Gray, a 32-year Marine Corps veteran, didn't have much time in official retirement. He retired July 31, 2001 and took over at San Elizario High a week later on Aug. 6. Interviews were held over the phone.

A 1972 graduate of the University of North Carolina, Gray came to San Elizario from Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. Speaking with pride of more than three decades of military service which included Desert Shield and Desert Storm, he says, "There is no greater thing I could have done."

Gray says he turned down "tremendous jobs" on the East Coast with salaries in excess of \$100,000. He also turned down comparable positions with units in Albuquerque.

"My satisfaction comes from seeing the kids develop — to become better young citizens and watching them mature into responsible citizens. These are great kids," Gray says. "They are smart, attentive and very patriotic."

Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Bid/
Respond:

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

CHARTER BUSES
CSP NO. 199-1218-0306
ACCEPTED UNTIL
DECEMBER 18, 2002,
2:30 P.M.

REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
CSP NO. 199-1218-0316
ACCEPTED UNTIL
DECEMBER 18, 2002,
3:00 P.M.

TEST AND BALANCE SERVICE FOR AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT
CSP NO. 199-1218-0315
ACCEPTED UNTIL
DECEMBER 18, 2002,
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-12/12/02

TOWN OF CLINT CLINT, TEXAS

Invitation to Bid

The Town of Clint is currently accepting bids for the purchase of equipment for the Maintenance Department as approved by the TCEQ grant:

• One (1) new Regular Cab Pick-up Truck.

• One (1) bumper pull Flatbed Trailer w/hydrau-

lic lift.

Proposals will be received at Town Hall, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Clint, Texas, 79836 until Dec. 20, 2002. Detailed specifications are available from the above office or can be requested email townofclint@aol.com.
WTXCC-12/12/02

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Article V, Sec. 5.05(a), all owners and lienholders have ten (10) days from this date to reclaim their vehicles at Southwest Wrecker, 1401 Darrington Rd., 855-1900, 851-2091-fax, or it will be sold at public auction for charges:
VIN IFDEE14H3PHB85262, 1993 Ford van, white, Mexico plates 984SBY3
VIN IGNNDT13S532172780, 2002 Chevy Trailblazer, green, plates RP51966
VIN IFTRW07W4IKBII043, 2001 Ford F-150 Supercrew, green, New Mexico plates DFF975
WTXCC-12/12/02

BARGAINS

FOR SALE: One five-door commercial cooler with new compressor, \$2,500. Two upright freezers, \$300 each. Two weight scales for produce, \$150 each. One two-door cooler, \$300. One ice machine for \$1,000; one for \$800. One cash register, \$5,000. All equipment suitable for commercial use. Call 852-2295.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY

ATTENTION VETERANS: Mortgage 7% or higher? You may be eligible for 5.5 to 6%. No credit check, no ap-

praisal, no hassle. Application completed at home. Information: Neil Jones Amerigroup Mortgage Corporation Rated #1 by VA 915-494-3660 Member American Legion Post 598 12/12-12/26

HELP WANTED

The **Lower Valley Water District** is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- Accountant I-Bachelors Degree, minimum 2 years exp.
- Accounting Clerk-Associates Degree, minimum 2 years exp.
- Auto CAD Technician, with surveying a plus
- Field Operations Foreman, B-License a plus
- Inspector with License Plumbing Certification; Auto CAD a plus

If interested, please mail your resume to the attention of Rosa Perez at: P.O. Box 909 Clint Texas 79836

or fax to: (915) 791-4483.

Deadline is December 27, 2002. 12/12

SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Group Paso Del Norte meets at 8501 Kingsway in Westway, Monday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Call 886-4948 for information.

Alcoholicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte sesiones lunes a sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are

offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous Group 8 de Enero meets at 15360 Horizon Blvd. in Horizon City on Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Call 859-0484 for information.

Tiene problemas con el alcohol? Hay una solución. Visitemos. Alcoholicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" **JIFFY GLASS REPAIR** Windshield Repair Specialists By appt. at your home or office: R.V. Dick Harshberger 915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR Domestic and Foreign 852-3523 1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

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• Appliance installation
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Briefs

From Page 1

In other news

■ Agents in the Alamogordo Border Patrol station intercepted two drug shipments last weekend outbound from the border area, consisting of 877 pounds of marijuana and some \$22,500 in cash. On Saturday drug cash in a false gas tank on a 1997 Chevy Suburban was found by a drug-sniffing canine. The occupants of the vehicle, both of Mexico, denied knowledge of the cash, saying they had borrowed the vehicle. Then on Sunday more than 877 pounds of marijuana was found in cardboard boxes in the back of a 1996 tractor/trail rig driven by two U.S. citizens of El Paso. The unidentified pair were turned over, along with the drugs valued at \$702,000, to the Drug Enforcement Administration in Las Cruces.

■ Cowboy Christmas on the Rio Grande, presented by Community Events, will take place on Dec. 14 from noon to sundown at the historic location of La Hacienda Restaurant, 1720 Paisano, next to Hart's Mill and Old Ft. Bliss. Benefits from the \$5 entry fee will be used to benefit area charitable organizations — in lieu of the fee, a child's coat in good condition will be accepted. Children under 12 are free. The Pod

of the Pass Chili Cook-off will be held, along with demonstrations of campfire cooking, roping, horse back riding and blacksmith skills, along with other artisans, exhibits and games. "Six Guns and Shady Ladies" will perform early in the afternoon, and El Paso historian Leon Metz will sign his latest publication. Stories and poems will be read by Cactus Chris, cowboy poet and storyteller. Charlie Russell and David Huerta will perform live country music, and a variety of Southwestern food will be served. Vendors of arts and crafts are welcomed, call 351-0911 for information.

■ In the latest CDC figures available for Texas, more than 35,000 individuals are today living with HIV infection or with AIDS, making it the state with the fourth largest number affected. This epidemic, which is non-discriminatory and attacks individuals of all ages from small towns to big cities, has infected some half a million residents in the U.S. Further information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1302/table1.htm>. Major drug companies are said to be making advancements in their efforts to develop more successful ways to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS. Currently there are 83 new medicines in development, with these medications including 14 vaccines and 33 antivirals, all of which are either in human clinical trials or are awaiting FDA approval.

Make sure your horse's ID matches his looks before transport or sale

AUSTIN — Like most folks, you probably detest your driver's license photo, but, in all likelihood, the identification card resembles you, albeit on a bad day. Similarly, your horse's test document for equine infectious anemia (EIA) also is used for identification, and the drawing on this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) form, called a VS 10-11, also should look like your animal.

"The VS 10-11 form is to be presented when horses, mules, donkeys or other equids are sold, or are entered into shows, fairs, trail rides, or, since July 1, when the animals are used on a public trail. This federal document is proof that the animal has been tested for the viral disease EIA, or as some folks call it, 'Coggins' or 'Swamp Fever,'" said Rick Smathers, director of Program Records at the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health agency.

"Recently, an event official turned away a horse because the drawing on the VS 10-11 didn't resemble the animal being presented. Important aspects of the animal's appearance hadn't been sketched or noted on the test document, so the event official didn't consider it to be a 'match'," he said.

He said accredited private veterinarians can test the animals for EIA by collecting a small sample of blood from the animal and submitting it to a laboratory approved by the USDA. Texas has 90 approved EIA testing labs.

Smathers explained that the VS 10-11 is printed with an outline of a horse, and the accredited veterinarian issuing the document is to sketch or note any of the animal's

spots, markings, stockings, hair whorls, scars or brands;

Smathers said that more than 152,000 horses in Texas have been tested for EIA in 2002, and each animal must have its own VS 10-11. "With so many forms being filled out, it's understandable that an error could be made on rare occasions. That's why the owner needs to double-check the form for accuracy," he pointed out.

EIA affects only members of the equine family, such as horses, donkeys and mules, and the incurable virus is not a threat to human health. Dr. Max Coats, TAHC assistant executive director, explained that the virus may be spread from infected equids to 'clean' animals when blood-to-blood contact is made, an event that can occur when biting flies travel from one animal to the next, or when contaminated instruments, such as hypodermic needles or dental floats, are used. He stressed that EIA is not the same disease as West Nile Virus, which is a "sleeping sickness" that can be spread by infected mosquitoes.

Smathers said animals need an EIA test within the previous 12 months and a health certificate, if they cross state lines. In lieu of a health certificate, which is valid only 30 to 45 days (depending on the state of destination), equine animals may be moved in and among Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas with an "equine passport," a document valid for six months.

For more details regarding the equine passport or requirements regarding testing for EIA, contact the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242 or your local accredited private veterinary practitioner.

LVWD

From Page 1

\$11,000, he added.

Archuleta, however, said that Duran is overestimating the number of people without service. He said a recent study commissioned by the city indicates that in all of El Paso County, only about 3,500 people are without water service. All of those live outside the city limits.

The dispute over the number of unserved is more than an academic argument. The city's lower estimates hurt the Lower Valley Water District's ability to obtain federal grant money, Duran said.

Arguments about the best way to serve Lower Valley Water District customers extend to rates. Duran said that even though the district is a relatively small operation with limited resources, it offers a rate that is only 15 percent above that of the El Paso utility.

"We've offered to them to provide services, and they've refused," Archuleta said. "The real way to help them, if you are trying to get lower rates for their customers, is for us to take them over."

But Archuleta said the district decided more than a year ago that it was no longer interested in that venture.

Duran said the utility would have raised rates to 150 percent of those in El Paso, without paying for flood control, parks maintenance and about \$105 million worth of existing water lines.

Archuleta said that the district's

rates would be higher initially because its customers would have to pay off its multimillion-dollar debt. And he said that the utility considered the water mains a liability because they must be replaced and repaired.

Duran sees the need for finding new water supplies, but questions whether El Paso Water Utilities really has his district's best interests at heart.

"Priority No. 1 should be to bring water to everyone who lives in El Paso County," he said. "The resources are not being distributed in an equitable way, and that needs to change."

View from here By Jeff M. Hudson

More taxes hurt the poor, state spending is the budget problem

Suggesting that the poor can be helped by raising taxes is as bankrupt a proposition intellectually as it is fiscally.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities, a left-leaning think tank that often sees more government as the solution to all ills, recently proposed increasing sales, property, franchise, and cigarette taxes by over \$6 billion to solve Texas' projected revenue shortfall. While CPPP might believe Texas can raise and expand taxes without doing economic harm, the research is undeniable: taxes hurt the poor and will reduce economic growth.

Like all of us, CPPP executive director Scott McCown — best known as the state judge who gave Texas the "Robin Hood" school finance scheme — wants to help the less fortunate. Unfortunately, his remedy is like using a hammer to cure a headache.

Economists investigating state and federal fiscal policy have clearly demonstrated that tax increases have a negative effect on the growth of personal income, especially at the margins where the poor reside.

Many people wrongly believe businesses pay taxes. They do not. So-called "business" taxes are paid mostly by customers and employees, and least by owners. Worst of all, such taxes are invisible to the consumer, hidden in the cost of the product or service being purchased. Stud-

ies conducted by economists around the nation and world find a direct link between high taxes, reduced job opportunities and higher unemployment.

When taxes are too high, jobs are either lost, not created, or move out-of-state. Indeed, over the past decade almost two million people have fled high-tax states and moved to low-tax states, like Texas — one of the great migrations of human history, according to economist Richard Vedder who discovered the phenomenon.

The CPPP study calling for more taxes states that "Personal income reflects the ability of Texans to pay taxes." Sorry, but that brand of economics hasn't held water since the Berlin Wall fell. Personal income is the measure of personal productivity, and nothing else. Increasing taxes reduces productivity, and ultimately economic opportunity.

A recent analysis of the 48 contiguous states by Dr. Vedder showed poverty was greatest in states with more government and higher taxes; conversely, poverty was lowest in states with low taxes and less government. Taking an additional \$6 billion from private investment in the Texas economy and giving it to the government will emulate the models of New York, Massachusetts, and Germany, which have learned the hard way that these types of tax-and-spend policies destroy human prosperity.

The choice for Texas is not simply

between raising taxes or shutting down nursing homes and letting the poor die shivering in the cold with no health care. The third way is to increase productivity, and do more with less, something that is done on a daily basis in the private sector.

The state should begin by taking seriously Carole Keeton Rylander's "Yellow Pages test." Where the private sector is doing something more efficiently than the government, then the government should outsource that function to save money. Just a few years ago, then-Governor Bush tried to outsource Medicaid eligibility screening in Texas but the Clinton administration rejected his request. This one project would have saved hundreds of millions of dollars for Texas taxpayers. Such outsourcing opportunities exist in virtually every state agency but have never been seriously pursued.

As the Texas Legislature gathers for work in January, the one thing they must do is clear: Don't mess with Texan's taxes. The state must limit the growth of spending, and seek creative ways to reduce expenditures at every level.

That Texas has weathered the economic downturn better than most other states is due almost entirely to its low-tax burden. Job opportunities have been more plentiful in Texas primarily because it costs less to do business here.

More taxes are not the answer, they are the problem.

(Jeff Judson is president and CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-partisan research institution. The Foundation's six-part "Taxing Texans" series is available at www.tppf.org.)



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Losing is not the legacy Bobby Joe Hill left the Miners

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Farewell to a legend who put El Paso on the map

They say you shouldn't kick anyone when they're down and I truly believe that, but my mother also taught me that sometimes you've just got to tell the truth.

And the painful truth is this — the UTEP Miners may very likely be the worst division-1 basketball team in the nation.

Heck, *Sports Illustrated* declared the UTEP football team the worst in the land. Why should they have all the fun?

Yes, I know the basketball team already has one win this year but that was a win over little division-II New Mexico Highlands, and even in that game the Miners led by a single point with 3:30 left in the game before pulling out a 75-66 win.

Since then, the Miners have lost four straight and three of those were at the formerly friendly confines of the Don Haskins Center. In the four losses, UTEP has been outscored by an average of 71-56.

The way I see it, UTEP will probably win no more than four games this year — and I can name them. UTEP should beat Tennessee State. The Tennessee St. Tigers are just 1-4 so far this season and three of those losses have come against powerhouses Fisk, Oral Roberts and Lipscomb.

No, they didn't lose to those guys in the appellate court, they lost to them on the basketball court.

Then the Miners should win their first-round game in their own Sierra Providence Sun Classic basketball tournament against Columbia.

I was too young to enjoy the play of former UTEP great Bobby Joe Hill, but my father sure filled me in with stories about the little playmaker that stole the ball twice against Kentucky in the 1966 title game.

He told me about the smallish guard who often made the man guarding him look foolish. He told me many stories about the point guard that led a team that made history.

A few days ago, I had to call my father and inform him that the great Bobby Joe Hill had died.

How blessed El Paso is that Bobby Joe Hill played at UTEP. It may be 36 years since the Miners won it all but it's still the news that makes El Pasoans the most proud. We still stick out our chests when we tell out-

Columbia is just 1-6, and the Lions have already recorded losses to Binghamton, Mount St. Mary's and Stony Brook, for goodness sake.

UTEP will take a break in the middle of WAC play to host Texas A&M Corpus Christi. No, that's not a typo, there is a Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

And Texas A&M Corpus Christi is 2-4 this year with losses to Lamar and Morehead State.

That would give the Miners four big wins this season. Unfortunately, I don't see another game on the schedule that the Miners can win.

That means a 4-25 season. That means a 0-18 WAC mark.

C'mon, is that possible?
Can the once-proud program that has won a

of-towners that those guys were our guys.

And now one of them is gone. Bobby Joe Hill was just 59 when he died of a heart attack last Sunday.

Way too young to have been taken away but with a man like Hill, any age would be way too soon.

I want to thank my dad and all the dads that sat down and told their sons about the time the Miners shocked the world and the Kentucky Wildcats that March evening 36 years ago.

For many of us it's when we first learned that anything truly is possible.

Good-bye Bobby Joe, we will never forget you and what you helped accomplish for the city of El Paso, the state of Texas, and an entire nation divided by color.

national championship, won numerous WAC titles and recorded countless winning seasons really be that bad?

Yes. And here's why. Everyone knows that the Miners were decimated by Jason Rabedeaux. Turns out the man couldn't coach, he couldn't keep his assistants, he couldn't keep his players and it appears that he couldn't...well...couldn't keep from doing his Bill Clinton imitation.

Anyway, the Miners not only have just seven players they turn to during the games. Of those seven, five had never played a single game for UTEP before this season. And the two that had, Roy Smallwood and Justino Victoriano, are playing like they were freshman.

I guess the good news, for the future any way, is the fact that the Miners' two best players are freshman John Tofi and freshman Giovanni St. Amant. The two are averaging a combined 26 points (13 points apiece) for a team that is averaging 60, that's over 43-percent of the team's points.

The two veterans, Smallwood and Victoriano are averaging a combined 13.

Another reason the Miners are so bad is their guard play. Especially starting point guard Chris Craig. After five games, the junior college transfer has a total of 16 assists and a whopping 27 turnovers. Ouch! I haven't experienced that many failed passes since I was single.

But don't just blame Craig. Did you know that UTEP doesn't have a single player on the roster that has more assists than turnovers, not a single player. I didn't know that was possible.

As a team, the Miners are averaging 20.6 turnovers a game. Know how you win games committing that many turnovers? You don't.

You've got to feel for poor Billy Gillespie. The new UTEP coach must have known his team was going to struggle this year. In fact, "struggle" right now would be a step in the right direction for this team.

Even though this season will continue to be a nightmare, sweeter dreams will definitely come a few years from now. Gillespie will recruit much better players and his style of play will eventually produce wins.

But for now and the rest of the year, UTEP will have to be patient and put up with the label as, "the worst athletic (football and basketball) program in the nation."

Adult language and literacy conference this week

EL PASO COUNTY — The First Annual Adult Language and Literacy Conference will be hosted in El Paso County by the Socorro and Ysleta Independent School Districts on Dec. 13-14 at the El Paso Marriott, according to Jan Engels, director of SISD Community Services.

The three sponsoring literacy centers serve over 5,000 adult education students annually in the greater El Paso region.

"Adult education is an emerging field in El Paso and throughout Texas," Engels said. "The EPALL Conference themes include responsible citizenship, transition to the workplace and bilingual literacy. GED, ESL, vocational training, technology and family literacy are some of the topics that will be addressed."

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13.

Engels said of special interest is a Legislative Review scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, with local representatives in attendance giving their views on funding for next legislative session.

For further information, contact Irma Trujillo at 434-4901.

Heisman

From Page 1

person and I look up to her," he said. "I'm just so proud of how well she's done. We have a great friendship."

In fact, all students in the top five at San Elizario High School are good friends. Alvidrez said that all five of them look out for each other and look up to one another.

"We keep rotating," he said. "Nobody has been ranked number one for more than a year, that's how close it is."

Garza agreed. He said that mere percentage points are what separate the top five.

As a Wendy's Heisman state finalist, Alvidrez is now up for some more competi-

tion. The field will now narrow to determine which students advance. As students progress, they are judged by a panel that includes past Heisman winners, as well as leaders in education, business, athletics and community service. Alvidrez hopes to make it to the next phase of the competition, where 12 students will be named national finalists.

The 12 national finalists will participate in the Heisman weekend festivities from Dec. 13, 2002 — Jan. 15, 2003 in New York City. ESPN2 will feature all 12 national finalists during the Wendy's High School Heisman Awards Ceremony. Two finalists will be named, a male and a female.

For more information, visit www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com or call 1-800-244-5161.

King Super Crossword

- MUSIC STAND**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Teatime treat
- 6 Thin coin
- 10 Nav. rank
- 13 Bother
- 19 Hook on a hawk
- 20 Klutz's cry
- 21 Jean- _ Godard
- 22 Fit for farming
- 23 Start of a definition
- of a perfectionist
- 26 Channel
- 27 Plead
- 28 Skeleton part
- 29 Elizabethan
- instruments
- 31 Yen
- 32 Relinquish
- 33 Occur earlier
- 35 To _ (perfectly)
- 36 El _ TX
- 39 Puppeteer Lewis
- 40 TV's " _ Street"
- 42 Part 2 of definition
- 48 WWII abbr.
- 51 Palm oil?
- 52 Aristocratic
- address
- 53 Duel tool
- 54 Metric measure
- 55 Relished a roast
- 56 Dismay
- 57 Chest material
- 59 Sun screen
- 60 Ulrich of Metallica
- 62 Caustic stuff
- 63 Ryan of "Boston"
- Public"
- 64 Broke to smithereens
- 66 Thornfield
- governess
- 68 Part 3 of definition
- 69 Black
- 70 Sullivan's partner
- 73 _ even keel
- 74 Heel
- 76 Impresses
- immensely
- 79 Confess
- 80 Helicopter part
- 82 Party present
- 84 Picnic pest
- 85 Authentic
- 86 Anapest, for one
- 87 Spanish title
- 88 Broadway letters
- 89 Prohibit
- 90 Part 4 of definition
- 94 Borscht ingredient
- 95 Diva Leontyne
- 96 Petty or Chandler
- 97 Stallion's sweetie
- 99 Mideastern
- kingdom
- 102 "The Ramayana," e.g.
- 105 _ song (cheaply)
- 106 Casual cloth
- 107 School founded in 1440
- 108 Absorb, with "up"
- 111 "The Barber of Seville" heroine
- 114 End of definition
- 118 Carved a canyon
- 119 Sue _ Langdon
- 120 _ Linda, CA
- 121 Avid
- 122 Became rigid
- 123 Guitarist Paul
- 124 " _ River" ('61 hit)
- 125 Be grateful
- DOWN**
- 1 Use a dirk
- 2 Drac's wrap
- 3 Couturier Cassini
- 4 Negative
- 5 Follow
- 6 Metaphysical poet
- 7 Nebraska
- neighbor
- 8 Speedometer
- abbr.
- 9 " _ Beso" ('62 hit)
- 10 Pianist Arrau
- 11 _ del Este
- 12 Mid-size band
- 13 Contains
- 14 _ deco
- 15 One in a million
- 16 Diminish
- 17 Pizza serving
- 18 Son of Adam
- 24 Time-honored
- 25 Office worker
- 30 "Georgy Girl" group
- 32 Pigeon English?
- 33 Med. professional
- 34 Unwelcome visit?
- 35 Donkey
- 36 Pansy part
- 37 "West Side Story" role
- 38 "The New Yorker" humorist
- 39 Where to find a plover
- 41 Positive vote
- 43 Singer Sumac
- 44 Steering device
- 45 Potter's need
- 46 Ancient Sanskrit
- 47 Mineral spring
- 48 Indecisive
- 49 Burn remedy
- 50 Firewood measure
- 54 One of the Aleutians
- 57 Chavez or Romero
- Romero
- 58 " _ go brag!"
- 59 Rocker Morrison
- 61 Astrologer Leek
- 63 Mrs. Jupiter
- 65 Skater Ito
- 67 Postal abbr.
- 68 Club creed
- 70 Apparel
- 71 Concept
- 72 Pulled a sulky
- 74 Hiawatha's transport
- 75 Declare
- 77 Join up
- 78 Abolitionist author
- 81 Aah's partner
- 82 Use 53 Across
- 83 Hurried
- 86 "Pshaw!"
- 87 Vaudeville bit
- 90 Elfin
- 91 Revolts
- 92 Freddie the Freeloader, e.g.
- 93 Father Brown monogram
- 94 Pigtales
- 97 Boxer Archie
- 98 Fiery felony
- 100 Copper or cobalt
- 101 _ fell swoop
- 102 Patriot Allen
- 103 Luau dish
- 104 Map feature
- 105 Worry
- 107 Admiral Zumwalt
- 108 Adventure story
- 109 Portent
- 110 Company car, e.g.
- 112 Born
- 113 Slap on
- 115 Shady character?
- 116 Leeds lavatory
- 117 Uh-uh

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Please don't kick this column down the stairs

By Don Flood

Recently I saw an excerpt from a review in The Los Angeles Times.

Concerning a recent performance by a jazz singer, the reviewer wrote, "Sandra Reaves-Phillips has got a way of handing a song its hat and kicking it down the stairs."

My first thought was, "Wow, she must really be good."

My second thought was, "What the heck does that mean?"

Immediately, more questions sprang to my Sherlock Holmesian brain.

How can you hand a song its hat?

Do songs even wear hats?

(And is it really necessary to kick a song down the stairs, even a song you don't like? "Song Sung Blue" by Neil Diamond comes to mind.)

This is not to suggest that I doubt Reaves-Phillips' ability to eject a song from the premises.

After all, I haven't heard her perform. It's entirely possible that I would sit there and make the exact same observations:

"Yup, there she is giving the song its hat now and — what's this? — ouch! That's gotta hurt!"

But then I thought, the reviewer's pulling our leg.

In "The Complete Upmanship," Stephen Potter describes simple ways of being one-up, or in the superior position, without actually knowing anything or working very hard.

Take the subject of wine, about which many people are afraid to appear ignorant.

Potter describes a great gamesman who would swish the wine around in his mouth and then in all serious-

ness announce, "Too many tramlines."

Wine, of course, doesn't have "tramlines" (It doesn't, does it?) and so this pronouncement passes the test of what Potter calls "boldly meaningless."

Oh sure, a lot of people will suspect you're full of hooley, but few will actually challenge you.

Now I don't know much about music, but I think I could get the hang of being "boldly meaningless." (My wife thinks I already have.)

Here are some potential reviews in case I take in one of Ms. Reaves-Phillips' concerts:

- "She has a way of pulling up a song's underpants and giving it a wedgie."

- "She doesn't just brush a song's teeth, she flosses — right down to the gum line."

- "She gathers up all of a song's laundry and tosses it in the washing machine."

If music reviews aren't your thing, you can always try your own wine gambits:

- "This wine has a sturdy armoire, I just wish it had a complete set of drawers."

- "It's pleasant, but you can tell from this wine's bouquet that it's still learning to walk."

- "It has a little too much of what the French call 'eye of the clam' for my taste, if you know what I mean."

Of course, very occasionally, some lout might say, "No, I don't know what you mean."

This is no great problem. Simply say, "I'm sorry, I should realize not everyone shares my passion for the best in life" and move on to your next victim.

Or you might decide it's time to hand this party its hat and kick it down the stairs.

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Lung Association calls EPA changes a major setback for public health

AUSTIN — The American Lung Association of Texas has expressed disappointment and deep concern about a plan announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to weaken the Clean Air Act's "new source review" program, calling it a "major setback" for public health.

"According to the EPA, 175 million Americans live in areas violating health standards for smog or soot. More than 11 million of those people live right here in Texas. Relaxing air pollution control rules applicable to 18,000 industrial pollution sources nationwide defies basic principles of common sense and good government," said Edward Carter, president of the American Lung Association of Texas.

"The EPA is implementing new regulatory loopholes on the heels of one of the nation's worst smog sea-

sons in recent years. The EPA's plan further tightens the air pollution noose around dozens of communities," said Carter.

New Source Review is the Clean Air Act program that requires older facilities to install modern pollution controls when they make major modifications that substantially increase pollution.

"The changes announced today will result in more pollution and dirtier air, and will undermine on-going attempts to enforce the law at plants that have already been charged with illegally polluting," said Carter. "The only initiative proposed by the Administration to reduce air pollution — the Clear Skies Initiative — would not go into effect for 10 years or more. People living with unhealthy levels of air pollution today can't hold their breath that long," he concluded.

Lies

From Page 2

they have an interest in defending the welfare of an unborn child and will therefore prosecute a pregnant woman for refusing to go to a doctor for prenatal care. Another woman was convicted last week for causing the death of an unborn child in a case of road rage.

On the other hand, the law says there is nothing wrong with any woman — simply on her whim — going to a doctor and having her unborn child torn out limb from limb and disposed of as waste. We call it "freedom of choice" though I don't think we've come up with any method to ask the baby what his or her choice is.

Of course, the most common lies are those we tell ourselves, like "It's my life, and I can do whatever I want to as long as nobody else gets hurt."

That's the biggest lie of all.

Trip

From Page 2

space allotted to us in our small lane, chugged slowly. "I don't think this kind of vacationing is for us."

When my husband didn't respond I looked over at him. He gripped the seat and was as white as cotton.

"Keep your eyes on the road or you're going to roll this thing," he said as calmly as he could.

On his side of the vehicle was a sheer drop off. On my side of the road was on-coming traffic trying to avoid me because, as I said earlier, the motor home took up more space than just our lane.

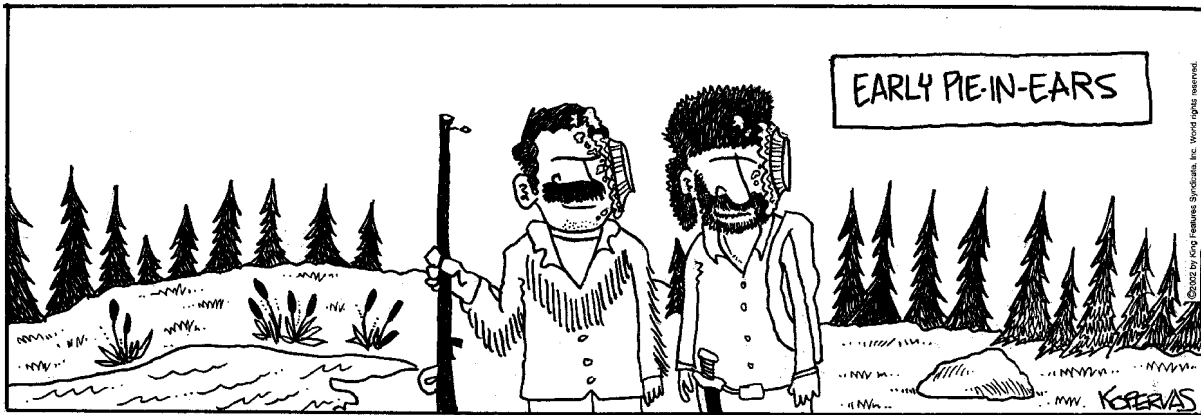
We did make it home safely. But to this day when we pass an RV on the highway my husband and I feel queasy.

We've agreed that we'll never be worthy candidates for the Good Sam Club.

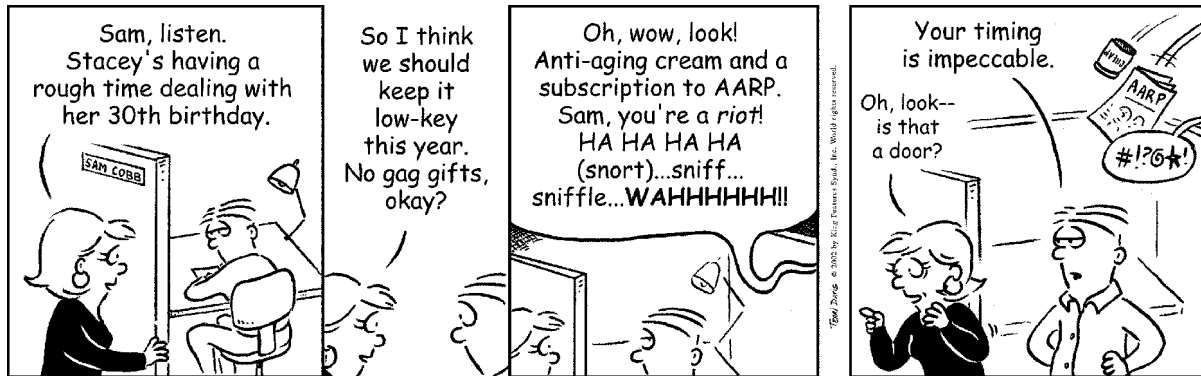
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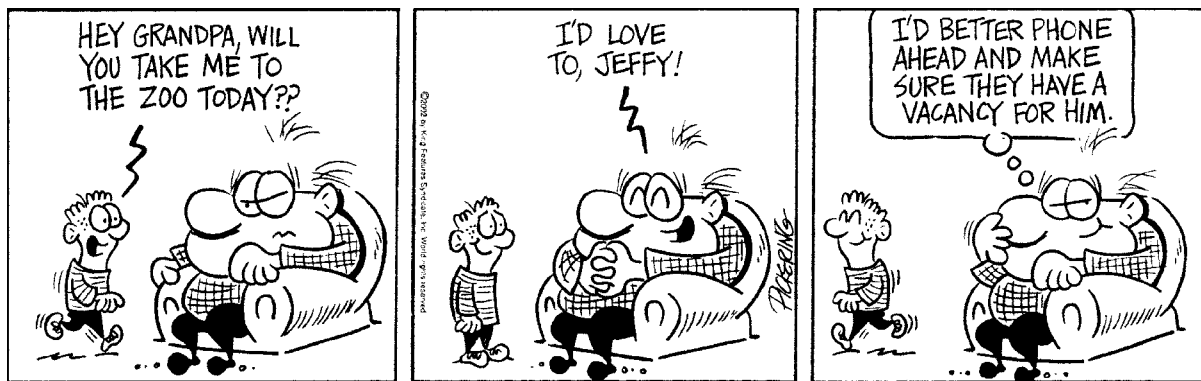
OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



GOT A LIFE By Terri Davis



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



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Phamiliar phrases
 "about face"
 Meaning a complete reversal, the use of this phrase has its beginning in military parlance. One of the marching commands is to reverse direction, or "about face."

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SCONE DIME CPO HARASS
 TALON OOPS LUC ARABLE
 APERSON WHO CANT STRAIT
 BEG ULNA LUTES ITCH
 CEDE PREDATE ATEE
 PASO SHARI EASY
 ENJOYTCHAIKOVSKYS WAC
 TIP MILORD EPEE KILO
 ATE ALARM CEDAR VISOR
 LARS LYE JERI SMASHED
 EYRE MUSIC INKY
 GILBERT ONAN CAD AWES
 ADMIT ROTOR FAVOR ANT
 REAL FOOT SENORA SRO
 BIAN WITHOUTKNOWINGHOW
 BEET PRICE KYLE
 MARE EMIRATE EPIC
 FORA DENIM ETON SOP
 ROSINA TOSPELLHISNAME
 ERODED ANE LOMA EAGER
 TENSED LES MOON THANK

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COURIER
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Social Security: Q & A By Ray Vigil

Q: I retired in September 2002 when I turned 65. At the time, they told me they could not use my 2002 earnings in my benefit calculation. Why was that? Will I ever get credit for those earnings?

A: Yes, you will get credit for your 2002 earnings. We could not use them in your original Social Security benefit calculation because the year wasn't over yet. Although you retired from your regular job in September, you might decide to return to work. Maybe you'll take on an extra job during the holidays. Who knows? Sometime during 2003, once your

full 2002 earnings are officially recorded in our files, we'll automatically refigure your benefit and pay you any increase due.

Q: My wife is 67. She has never worked and paid into Social Security. I turn 65 this year and will go on Social Security. Will she be eligible for any of my benefit?

A: She sure will. She'll get half of your benefit, but it won't reduce your payments. In other words, if you qualify for \$1,000 per month from Social Security, she'll get \$500 monthly, giving you a combined in-

come of \$1,500 per month. And if she doesn't already have it, she'll get Medicare on your record, too.

Q: A friend told me she heard a Social Security speaker say I could work and earn \$780 per month while I'm on Social Security disability. Is this true?

A: Your friend heard only part of the story. Generally, you're allowed to earn as much as you can, with no impact on your benefits, during the first nine months you work. Those nine months don't have to be consecutive. But after that, we must stop your disability checks if you're doing "substantial" work. In 2002, we generally call any earnings over \$780 per month "substantial." The thresh-

old goes up to \$800 in 2003.

Q: I've got a pamphlet about Social Security disability benefits that says I'd qualify if I can't do "substantial gainful activity." What's that?

A: It's "work." Lawmakers defined Social Security disability as the "inability to engage in substantial gainful activity." In a nutshell, that means if you've got a disability that keeps you from working, and if it's expected to last a year or more, you'll qualify for disability benefits. Even if you are working, you still might qualify, as long as the work isn't "substantial." As a general rule, if you're earning less than \$780 per month in 2002, or \$800 per month in

2003, that's not substantial.

Q: I'm thinking of moving from California to Arizona. How do I get my SSI sent to my new Arizona address?

A: Changing the address is easy. Just call 1-800-772-1213. But you should know that SSI rates change from state to state. And the Arizona rate is considerably less than the California rate.

For more information visit your local Security office, see <http://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.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sunny to partly cloudy.	Clear and chilly.	Sunshine.	Sunny.	A blend of sunshine and clouds.	Sunny.	Periods of clouds and sunshine.	Mostly cloudy.
▲ 57°	▼ 27°	▲ 55° ▼ 29°	▲ 57° ▼ 33°	▲ 59° ▼ 33°	▲ 58° ▼ 32°	▲ 58° ▼ 39°	▲ 50° ▼ 31°

UV INDEX

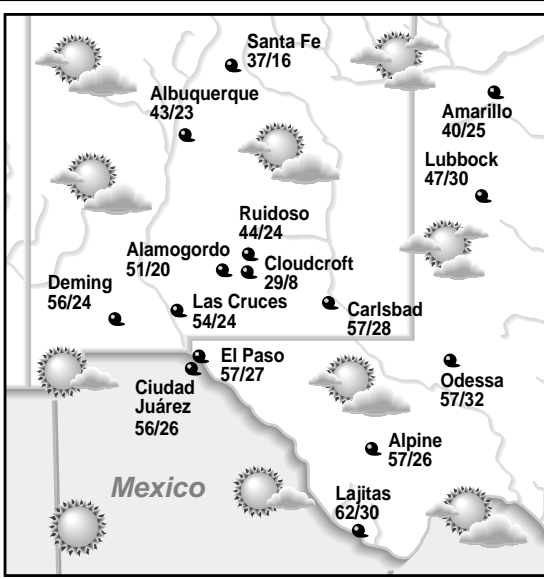
Statistics for noon.

The higher the UV Index, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Thursday	4	Low
Friday	4	Low
Saturday	4	Low
Sunday	3	Low
Monday	4	Low
Tuesday	3	Low
Wednesday	3	Low

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	56	26
Canutillo	57	28
Clint	55	28
E. Montana	57	27
Fabens	55	29
Horizon	57	28
San Elizario	54	24
Socorro	56	27
Tornillo	55	28
Vinton	57	27



Shown is Thursday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday's highs and Thursday night's lows.

TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	43/23/pc	44/24/s	50/27/s	50/27/pc	49/33/pc
Atlanta	56/40/pc	56/40/r	48/38/c	51/37/pc	57/35/pc
Atlantic City	47/34/c	50/34/s	46/36/c	51/34/pc	50/30/pc
Austin/San Antonio	62/40/c	62/38/pc	62/38/pc	63/40/s	66/44/pc
Baltimore	48/32/c	52/35/s	48/38/c	44/24/pc	53/32/c
Boston	42/36/c	44/36/s	40/34/c	38/26/pc	45/37/r
Chicago	44/30/pc	40/30/sn	40/30/pc	43/32/pc	41/29/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	55/40/c	54/37/pc	54/36/pc	58/40/s	59/41/pc
Denver	33/24/c	48/28/s	56/26/s	57/29/pc	46/27/c
Flagstaff	44/14/s	46/14/s	48/16/s	48/18/pc	45/26/pc
Houston	57/44/r	60/42/pc	64/44/pc	66/50/s	68/50/pc
Kansas City	42/32/c	42/30/c	48/32/pc	52/32/pc	45/32/c
Las Vegas	57/36/s	58/36/pc	58/40/pc	56/36/pc	58/40/pc
Miami	80/70/sh	79/65/t	77/61/c	76/59/c	74/54/pc
Minneapolis	40/26/c	36/26/pc	42/28/pc	40/24/pc	38/20/c
New Orleans	65/49/c	64/45/c	62/43/pc	59/45/s	63/47/s
New York City	44/32/c	46/34/s	42/36/c	44/32/pc	49/38/sh
Philadelphia	46/34/c	50/34/s	46/38/c	42/26/pc	47/33/pc
Phoenix	65/40/s	70/42/s	72/44/s	70/45/pc	67/47/pc
Portland	54/44/r	50/44/r	50/42/r	48/39/r	46/37/r
San Francisco	60/48/pc	56/50/c	56/48/r	56/48/c	58/44/r
Seattle	54/42/r	50/42/c	48/42/r	48/37/r	46/38/r
Tucson	63/32/s	64/36/s	67/38/s	68/39/s	66/41/s
Washington, DC	50/34/c	54/36/s	48/40/c	46/28/pc	51/36/r

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REAL FEEL TEMP™

The exclusive AccuWeather composite of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

Thursday	52°
Friday	39°
Saturday	41°
Sunday	42°
Monday	56°
Tuesday	51°
Wednesday	48°

AGRICULTURE

Mainly dry weather will be the rule for the next week. With the jet stream well to the north across the northern Rockies, storms will pass by well to the north, leaving west Texas dry. On any day there will be 5-7 hours of sun. Humidity values will be around 30 percent during the afternoon hours. A strong storm could bring rain next week.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2002



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