



NEWSBRIEFS

Poultry problems

Fourteen commercial poultry operations have been hit by Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) in southern California, and Texas animal health officials are advising owners of all poultry, emus, ostriches, pet birds, parrots and other fowl to keep watch on their flocks and report signs of unusual illness or unexpected death losses which can be as high as 90 percent. Laboratory tests must be run to confirm an END diagnosis. "We ask owners of poultry and birds to contact their private veterinary practitioner and the TAHC to report unexpected death losses or unusual signs of illness," said Dr. James Lenarduzzi, acting executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). More than 2.2 million birds have been killed to stop the spread of END in southern California, Nevada and Arizona, where the disease has involved more than 2,000 non-commercial, or "backyard" flocks, in addition to the 14 commercial operations in California. The TAHC's hotline is staffed 24 hours a day and can be reached at 1-800-550-8242.

Weatherizing Sparks

About 10 homes in the community of Sparks benefited from the efforts of students from Montwood High School and 14 other area high schools in a project to "weatherize" these homes. Laura Price, director of Student Activities at MHS, said the Montwood student council organizes the project each year. "Project Bravo assisted us (in finding) the homes; Home Depot, Wal-mart, the Foret Company and Sherwin-Williams Paint store gave us donations," she said.

In other news

■ Cotton farmers and landowners with cotton production are eligible to vote in a March 17 referendum to determine whether to continue a boll weevil eradication program in the 15 counties of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Boll Weevil Eradication Zone. About 214 ballots have been mailed and should reach eligible voters after Feb. 25. Those who planted cotton in 2002 but do not receive a ballot should contact the Texas Dept. of Agriculture at 512-463-7593.

■ In passing by Montwood High School, you might see yellow ribbons fluttering from the Mondale pines, placed there Feb. 20 by members of the student council, the French club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and other student groups to show support for the soldiers of Ft. Bliss and the reserves called to active duty in the Persian Gulf.

■ Dr. Seuss' birthday will be celebrated at the El Paso County Library in Fabens. Children can participate by reading or listening to stories by Dr. Seuss. Participants

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Nervousness is when you feel in a hurry all over and can't get started.

— Quips & Quotes



MATTERS OF THE HEART — Kindergarten teacher Eileen Armour and Daniell Fereyra share the common bond of life saving heart surgery.

Three in San Eli know the fear and deliverance of heart surgery

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — Christmas night is not supposed to be spent the way Eileen Armour, a kindergarten teacher at Loya Primary School, spent hers in 2000.

While most people spent the holiday surrounded by the warmth of family, unwrapping presents and enjoying time off from both work and school, Armour spent her in the back of an ambulance, clinging to life and unsure whether she was going to see the next morning much less the new year.

"It's like someone flipped a switch inside of me," Armour said recently during one of her conference breaks at the school. "There was phenomenal pressure in my chest, my heart was pounding, just pounding."

On the way to the hospital, Armour had no feeling in her arms or legs and by the time they reached the hospital, she had no pulse or heart beat. Doctors feared she would not live.

Fast forward to Valentine's Day, 2003, when an entire student body and staff at Loya teamed up with the American Heart Association and KBNA for the Jump Rope For Heart event in honor of Armour, Lorenzo Cedillo, a janitor at the school and Daniell Fereyra, a Kindergarten teacher at Loya. Like Armour, Cedillo and Fereyra are alive today because of heart surgery.

At five years old, Danielle is a smiling little girl with glasses, showing the usual shyness of a kindergartner and according to her mother, Nancy Lujan who teaches Special Education at nearby Borrego Elementary, she is comfortable talking about the scar running down the middle of her chest.

"Even with her big scar, she's worn shirts that show it," Lujan said. "She just tells people that 'My heart was broken and they fixed it.'"

Sounds simple, yes, but for Lujan it was a little more complicated than that. Diagnosed with Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), the hole in

See HEARTS, Page 6

Canutillo High School business professional qualify for state competition

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo High School Business Professionals of America (BPA) students advanced to state finals after placing first or second in various business events during the BPA area competition held at Ysleta High School recently. About 300 students from local area school districts participated.

Thirteen Canutillo High students will be among the group of high school students who will represent the El Paso area in the BPA State Conference, March 5-8, in Corpus Christi. Nine CHS students were named state alternates in their events.

State Qualifiers and their events are: Administrative Support Team - Jackie

Segovia, Ruben Salinas, Rey Torres, Indira Montenegro; Programmer - Brenda Corral, Rick Guzman; Integrated Office Applications - Sunny Baker; Desktop Publishing - Jackie Segovia; Economic Research Project Team -

Mildred Ruiz, Iris Leony; Software Engineering Team - Iris Leony, Rick Guzman, Mildred Ruiz, Brenda Corral; CISCO Systems Administration - Sarah Escobar; Web Site Development Team - Sara Escobar, Jeremy Nelson, Sunny Baker; Database Applications - Marilyn Valdez.

CHS State Alternates are: Denise Rojas, Emma Escobar, Ruben Salinas, Ruby Palacios, Michael Sainz, Sonia Arroyos, Michael Sainz, Raul Martinez, Isaak Monrreal, Isidra Barron and Velia Herrera.

BPA advisors are Canutillo High School teachers Carol Sherman and Tim Barno.

Top Finishers in the state contest will be eligible for national competition which will be held during the BPA National Leadership Conference, April 30 through May 4, in Dallas, Texas.



COMPETITORS — Members of the Canutillo High School Business Professionals of America (BPA) advanced to state.

County, Anthony agree to create sports district

EL PASO COUNTY — A long-sought opportunity to locate a sports arena in the Upper Valley community of Anthony came a step closer on Monday when El Paso County Commissioners agreed to create a sports district in conjunction with the town of Anthony.

The district is to be governed by an appointed board — two places by the County Judge and two by the Mayor of Anthony, and a presiding officer to be jointly appointed. There is a one-time offer of optional seats for other incorporated municipalities in the County including El Paso, Vinton, Horizon City, Socorro and Clint, an offer which must be claimed within the next 30 days.

Presented by Dennece Knight, marketing director for American RV and Marine in Anthony and member of the Anthony Sports Authority, the district can bring bond issues to the voters for approval for sports and community projects.

Anthony sought and failed to have the township designated as the site for a sports arena last year — Commissioners ultimately chose Ascarate Park in El Paso as the proposed site but a \$55 million bond issue to build the arena was subsequently rejected by El Paso County voters in November.

Knight and other members of the Anthony community hope to be more successful in presenting and obtaining bond money from the voters to build an arena in Anthony.

The vote to approve was three to one — Commissioner Miguel Teran, who represents the Lower Valley, voted no stating that he favored giving the entire county community an opportunity to have input into creating the sports district, since its governing board can propose sports-related projects anywhere in the county and ask voters to support funding for those projects.

Knight said no project undertaken by the district can succeed without cooperation from all parties, especially the voters.

Assistant County Attorney Lee Shapleigh cautioned commissioners, however, that once created, the district cannot be dissolved.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

One size doesn't fit all

I always detested pabulum.

I don't think it's fashionable to feed babies pabulum anymore, so let me describe it. It is a sort of gray, sticky, tasteless porridge. Even if you stir in some strawberries it still tastes and looks the same — a dense mass of sameness without color or flavor.

If modern media has its way that's what the American public will resemble.

I was both pleased and a little surprised by the success of the recent movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* but I am surprised the Greeks aren't being encouraged to riot in the street by the ACLU — after all the film showcased some very ethnic facets of Greek life and not all of them are endearing.

Unfortunately, the spin-off sitcom *My Big Fat Greek Life* is sadly lacking in the flavor and zest of the original movie. Like so much of the daily fare of American television, it relapsed into political correctness and standard "gimme" laugh lines — acceptable to anyone, desired by no one. Sort of like pabulum.

Women in this country tried to squeeze themselves into clothing several sizes too small for decades before upscale fashion magazines and catalogs got realistic and began selling "women's" sizes.

Even so, have you seen the models that are supposed to represent the larger size women? They sure don't look like me or most of the other women I see flocking to the large-size clothing racks.

Thousands of teenage girls starve themselves into poor health, paint themselves unrecognizable, and hate themselves every time

they look into the mirror because they do not fit a media-ordained image — the one magical size that advertisers hint will give them eternal happiness and success.

I wish these kids understood that it is not only healthy, but desirable, that not everybody fit the same size.

Along with this media-created outward image of beauty, we are also supposed to squeeze ourselves into a behavioral mold of so-called tolerance, acceptance and open-mindedness. It resembles a sort of mental communism: all people with all thoughts in common, controlled by one party that tells us all what to think.

When I think about the people I know and like best, they sure don't fit one size. They come from almost all age groups, are of both genders, live in various economic strata, are of varying ethnic backgrounds, don't look alike — and they sure don't think alike.

Unfortunately what our national media wants us to believe is that they are the ultimate authority on what is good and acceptable — that individually we are incapable of discerning this on our own, that if we have an inkling of right and wrong we must never utter it out loud for fear of appearing "politically incorrect," and that we should be more deeply interested in who is hanging on Britney Spears' arm this week than in understanding the forces that are bringing our nation ever closer to armed conflict.

I wonder how well Ben Franklin, George Washington, or even Abe Lincoln would fare in a national media that finds it desirable to ridicule

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30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Bipartisan House-Senate alliance key to securing appropriations requests

After months of deliberation, the 2003 federal budget finally passed both the House and Senate, allocating funds for our nation's 435 congressional districts. El Paso will benefit from millions of dollars in new funding for a range of projects from the Border Health Medical Complex, to the renovation of the Plaza Theater, to the construction of a dedicated commuter lane at the Ysleta Port of Entry.

In a year where federal funds were hard to come by, 2003 was good to El Paso. My staff and I held meeting after meeting, wrote letter after letter, and pounded the Capitol Hill pavement to make sure that El Paso received needed funding. There's little time for celebration, because before the 2003 appropriations process was over, the fight for funding in 2004 had already begun.

It is imperative to receive a cohesive, prioritized funding agenda for El Paso, because securing funding is an ongoing battle. In El Paso, bipartisan cooperation is more than just a catchy, politically-correct phrase. It's a rule to live by, and a key component to the economic vitality of our region. I can work 18 hour days and do my absolute best to make sure that each and every one of our funding requests is included in House legislation, but if there's no support in the Senate, little of it will pass. I therefore plan to continue and expand upon my strong relationships with our Senators Kay Hutchinson and John Cornyn.

Here are a few of the highlights from the 2003 appropriations bill that will benefit El Paso:

- An additional \$7 million in funding for the El Paso desalination plant, bringing total funding for this project to over \$17 million. Once completed, the plant will make 27.5 million gallons of drinking water per day available to El Paso and the surrounding area.
- Over \$1.3 million for various flood control projects.
- \$4 million for the Border Health Commission.
- \$1.5 million to purchase additional Sun Metro buses.
- \$1.1 million for the Border Health Medical Complex, to include a four-year medical school at Texas Tech.
- \$900,000 for the Plaza Theater Renovation, key to El Paso's downtown revitalization plans.
- \$800,000 for El Paso water reclamation and reuse.
- \$350,000 for Path Community Services, Inc. to provide after school programs for at-risk youth.
- \$300,000 for the design and construction of the Ysleta dedicated commuter lane which will speed up cross-border traffic and commerce.
- \$250,000 to extend transit service hours to help people with late or early hour work commutes.
- \$150,000 for the El Paso Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART). This amount can be used towards the funding of personnel, curricula, professional development, and equipment.
- \$40 million for Southwest Border Prosecutors Initiative.
- \$250 million for State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to reimburse local law enforcement for incarceration and legal proceedings costs of undocumented immigrants.
- \$25 million for the border colonias initiative.

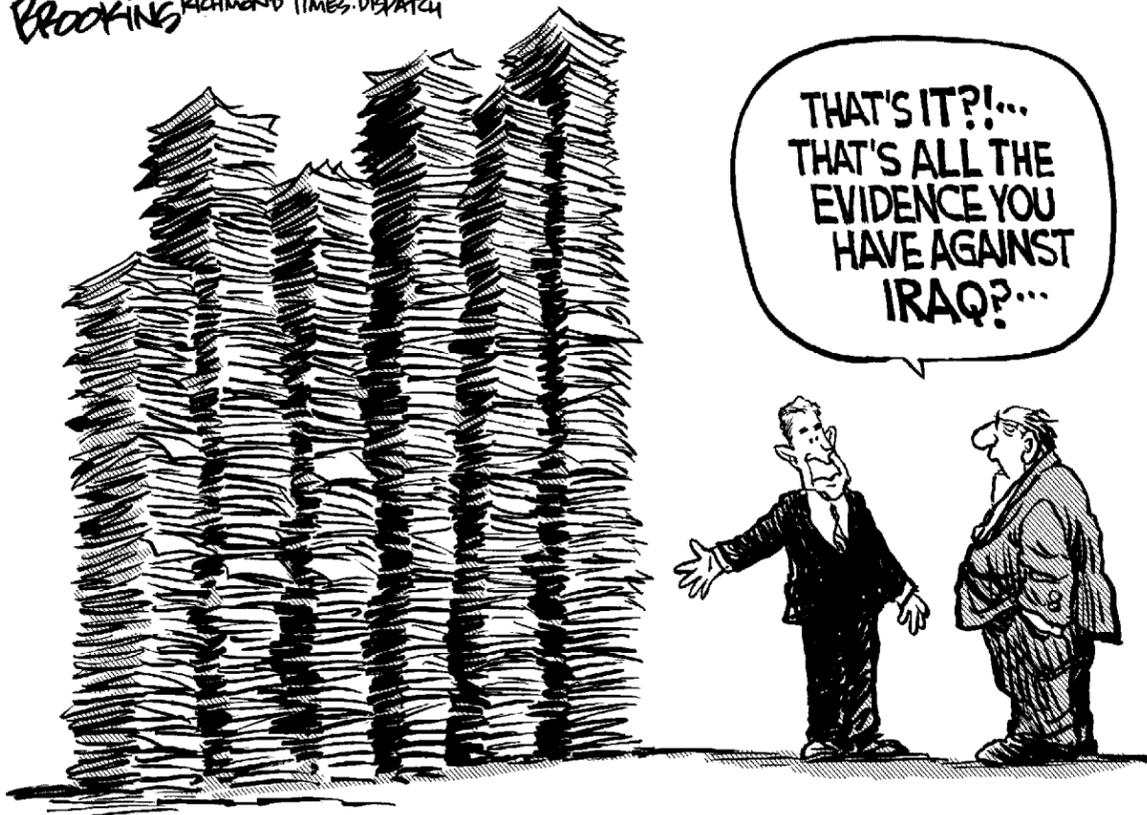


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Brookings RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH



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



The truth about bioterrorism

The word bioterrorism has a frightening ring to it.

We've all heard the term tossed around. Perhaps you read about it in a specialized news story or saw a reference to it in a recent movie. But let's face it, before September 11th, discussion of bioterrorism was pretty infrequent.

That all changed on September 11th. The term "bioterrorism" has become a part of our daily vocabulary. It seems everywhere you turn today, bioterrorism is the topic of conversation. It's hard to miss. Every newspaper, television and radio is discussing the issue. Images of anthrax, chemicals and other deadly substances are filling our minds. Some people have already bought gas masks for spouses and children. It's been tough keeping fear out of our minds. It's only human.

But we must remember that bioterrorism is about terror. The more we allow fear to consume our daily lives, the more the terrorists have won the battle. I understand many of you feel helpless against an act of

bioterrorism. Many people feel there is nothing they can do to combat this fear. But that's where they're wrong. You can combat your fears by educating yourself and finding strength in information.

Since the attacks of September 11th, I've made a point of learning as much as possible about bioterrorism. And you know what, it's helped. Every briefing I attend, every news article I read, and every website I study brings me a new sense of calm. Knowledge really is power.

Did you know that chemical and biological weapons are extremely difficult to transport, much less distribute? Did you know that anthrax cannot be spread from one person to another? Did you know that it takes thousands of spores to infect a person with anthrax? Did you know that these spores can only live in our atmosphere for a short period of time and that it takes near perfect conditions to keep them alive? Those are some pretty staggering facts.

Historically, the odds are against chemical and biological weapons. In

1979, some 5,000 people were exposed to anthrax aerosol in the former Soviet Union, but a total of 66 people died. More recently, in March of 1995, the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo cult released nerve-gas in the Tokyo subway. Thousands of people were in the subway system at the time of release, but only 12 people were left dead. We all agree that any malicious death is a tragedy. But my point is that even in the best of circumstances, only a small percentage of bio or chemical terrorist acts are fatal.

Those are some tough odds to beat. But should something slip through the cracks, you should rest assured that we will be prepared. The nation's health agencies have formed a strong and flexible public health infrastructure. The Department of Health and Human Services is working closely with the Center for Disease Control, the Health Alert Network, and other state and local health agencies. They have a specific action plan that in-

Schools to receive textbook summary of TPPF review

AUSTIN — Texas public schools are now selecting social studies textbooks, with superintendents and teachers deciding what students will learn about their state, nation and world over the coming decade. To assist schools identify factually sound, academically rich textbooks, the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) is mailing a summary of its comprehensive 2,100-page review to districts throughout Texas prior to the April 1, 2003 state selection deadline.

When districts select books that were approved by the State Board of Education, the cost is covered by Texas' Permanent School Fund. Districts must use local funds to purchase books that failed to be placed on the State's approved lists.

"Schools will be making difficult decisions," said Chris Patterson, director of education research for the Foundation. "Teachers will be reviewing dozens of books to decide which books do the best job covering material that students must master for new state assessments."

The Foundation's review offers schools information about academic quality, readability, teaching styles and instructional focus of textbook choices.

The review was conducted by 16 teachers and professors, mostly employed in classrooms and universities throughout Texas; textbooks were evaluated by at least one teacher and professor to give both an instructional and a subject area perspective.

"Reviewers found clear distinctions in the quality of the textbooks," noted Patterson. "Even though the most academically sound textbooks will give students a profound educational advantage, few schools have resources to thoroughly review each textbook, so our review can be a valuable aid for teachers."

This year's selection of textbooks represents an important step toward ensuring that students in Texas public schools learn the state's social studies curriculum, adopted in 1997, according to Patterson. "New textbooks offer an opportunity to remedy the widespread, pervasive ignorance of history demonstrated by students throughout the nation."

one of new social studies textbooks, however, contain enough history, according to the Foundation's review. Textbooks are written to cover the topics that state policymakers identify must be taught and tested, and history has been short-changed, added Patterson.

The Foundation's review identifies the history missing from new textbooks and lists history education resources available on the World Wide Web.

The Foundation's review is available at <http://www.tppf.org/2002textbookreview/> and represents an investment of close to \$100,000 in the effort to improve social studies textbooks and history education in Texas and throughout the nation.

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore Feb. 28, 1948, 23 women meet in San Angelo to form the Girls Rodeo Association.



cludes pharmaceutical stockpiles and accelerated development of vaccines and antibiotics. It also includes rapid response teams, emergency preparedness, disease surveillance and research and development. The bottom line is that our health agencies stand ready to fight any disease outbreak.

But it doesn't stop there. State, local and federal health agencies are looking after our water supply. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration are closely monitoring our food supply. President George W. Bush nominated Governor Tom Ridge to oversee homeland security and the Senate and House of Representatives have now overwhelmingly approved formation of the Department of Homeland Security. The United States Congress is doing our part to keep all these agencies well funded and well prepared.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "we have nothing to fear, but fear itself." He was right. We cannot allow terrorists to change our nation. We cannot live our lives based

on fear. I urge each of you to become informed. Let information conquer your fears.

For more information on the subject of bioterrorism, please try the following websites:

- Department of Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov
- Center for Disease Control: www.bt.cdc.gov
- Health Alert Network: www.bt.cdc.gov/DocumentsApp/HAN/han.asp
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: www.usda.gov
- Food and Drug Administration: www.fda.gov
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

America is the greatest nation in the world. We have a lot to be proud of and a bright future to anticipate. Remember the President's words — America will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail in our fight against international terrorism. Until next time, God Bless each of you and may God continue to bless America!

Bad food growing on the factory farm

By Ben Lilliston
Special to the Courier

Most patients with food poisoning don't need to be treated with antibiotics. But for those whose infections spread beyond the intestine, antibiotic treatment can be life saving. Two studies released recently indicate that several such critical antibiotics may be losing their effectiveness. The studies found that bacteria commonly found on supermarket chicken and poultry are getting stronger — developing resistance to many of the most valuable antibiotics used to treat humans.

Both studies pointed to the overuse of drugs in factory poultry and livestock farms as part of the problem. The scientific consensus is now that antibiotic use in food animals contributes to antibiotic resistant bacteria transferred to humans, mainly through contaminated food. The studies called for an end to the routine feeding of antibiotics to animals that are not sick. Today they are both to promote growth and to compensate for crowded, stress-inducing, and unsanitary conditions that are conducive to infection.

Salmonella and Campylobacter bacteria are the two most common bacterial causes of U.S. foodborne illness, and are responsible for more than 3.3 million infections and more than 650 deaths every year. The two new studies found high levels of Salmonella and

Campylobacter on supermarket poultry and that these bacteria were resistant to important antibiotics — like ciprofloxacin (Cipro), Synercid and tetracycline — that are commonly used to treat humans.

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and the Sierra Club commissioned an independent laboratory last fall to test 200 fresh chickens and 200 batches of ground turkey. The lab found that 95 percent of the whole chickens were contaminated with Campylobacter and nearly 62 percent of the Campylobacter tested were resistant to one or multiple antibiotics. Salmonella bacteria were found in 45 percent of the ground turkey purchased, and 62 percent of Salmonella from turkey tested were found resistant to one or more antibiotics.

Another study published in the January issue of "Consumer Reports" found that 49 percent of the chickens bought at supermarkets and other stores are contaminated with Campylobacter and/or Salmonella bacteria. Ninety percent of the Campylobacter tested and 34 percent of the Salmonella tested showed resistance to at least one antibiotic. When bacteria are resistant to antibiotics that doctors rely on for treating infections, it puts patients' lives at risk by taking away a critical tool for recovery. These antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria are more potent, increasing the likelihood that members of the public will become sick and stay sick longer than if ex-

posed to non-resistant organisms.

Bacteria become resistant from over-exposure to antibiotics. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that 70 percent of all antibiotics in the U.S. are fed to pigs, poultry and cattle for reasons other than treating disease, like growth promotion. The majority of such medicines are "medically important," and are identical, or nearly so, to human antibiotics.

There are a few steps that should be taken immediately to protect the effectiveness of these antibiotics. Congress should ban routine uses of medically important antibiotics in healthy poultry and other livestock. Over 30 medical groups, including the American Medical Association, have endorsed this action.

Poultry producers should stop feeding antibiotics to birds that are not sick. Four of the top five chicken producers already have sworn off any use of Cipro-like antibiotics. Large volume buyers, like McDonald's, Popeye's, Hardee's, Subway, Domino's and Wendy's all now claim they refuse to buy chicken treated with Cipro-like antibiotics.

Aside from taking steps to cook meat and poultry thoroughly, consumers can buy poultry raised without antibiotics. The IATP has put together an on-line state-by-state listing of meat and poultry producers using no antibiotics, or no routine antibiotics, in addition to restaurants and other places to buy these products at www.iatp.org/eatwell. In the fight against foodborne illness, we are living on borrowed time.

Ben Lilliston is the communications coordinator for the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. For more information, email: blilliston@iatp.org.

10-year Clint school board veteran values family and personal integrity

By Debra Dominguez
Special to the Courier

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — "Always try to remain positive and optimistic about the future," said James (Jim) Pendell recently. "Every generation should work hard to make life better for the next. As a result, each family member will enjoy life as much as possible."

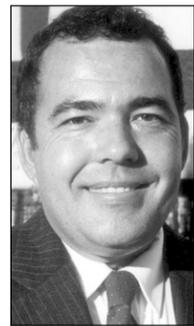
Pendell is nearing a decade of service as a member of the Clint Independent School Board, five of those years as president. In a recent interview, he shared some of his thoughts and ideas on living a good life, education, employment and success.

"Everyone needs to do their part to ensure a better tomorrow, and never forget the struggles that their family has made for them," he said.

A 1977 graduate of Ysleta High School, Pendell went on to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, earning a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Education in 1981, a Master's of Education in Agricultural Education in 1982, and a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Business & Agronomy in 1983.

Owner and operator of the Fabens Big 8 Food Store in Fabens, and of Pendell Farms in Clint, the 43-year-old Pendell said his greatest pleasure is his family.

"I enjoy traveling with my family every opportunity I can," he said.



Jim Pendell

"I also enjoy working on my farm." On becoming a success in life, Pendell said, "The ability to realize at an early age what your God given talents are in life, and discovering how to use them wisely in the most productive way. Be sure to set your goals high and dedicate your energy into reaching them."

Because of his businesses, Pendell has had much experience in managing employees. On being a good employee, he said, "A good employee is someone who maintains the best interest of his employer as his number one priority. A good employee always knows what

needs to be done, is eager to get the job done and takes great pride in seeing it done right. The good employee appreciates his job and demonstrates his loyalty daily through his attitude, productivity and his resourcefulness. A good employee takes ownership in his work knowing fully well that an efficient well-operated company is the best type of job security."

In closing, he offered these words of wisdom: "Always strive to do your best at everything you do. Be sincere in your beliefs, and work to develop good habits. Remember that your personal integrity and reputation is what sets you apart from the rest. Treat people with respect, and always try to do the right thing. Honor your family and country and strive to be a productive citizen. Instill your values in your children."

Notice to Public Hearing Village of Vinton, Texas

Project Completion and Closeout Texas Community Development Program Contract #721851

The Village of Vinton will conduct a public hearing to solicit the input of regarding the completion of a street paving and drainage improvements project carried out with assistance from the Texas Community Development Fund of the Texas Community Development Program. Please attend this meeting and voice your opinion concerning the completion and closeout of this project.

DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 2003
TIME: 7 P.M.
LOCATION: Village Hall in Vinton, Texas

The Village of Vinton has a Citizen Participation Plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the Community Development Program; copies are available by request. Persons unable to attend these public hearings may submit their views regarding completion of the project at the Village Hall in Vinton, Texas.

Accommodations for handicapped persons will be available. Handicapped persons in need of special assistance to attend the hearing are encouraged to contact the Village of Vinton Clerk at (915) 886-5104.

El publico en general está invitado a asistir a estas audiencias. La presentación y discusión del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad del Estado de Texas se haran en español para aque las personas que asi lo deseen.

**Antonio Castro, Sr., Mayor
Village of Vinton, Texas**

**Date Published:
02/27/03**

El Paso County Housing Authority Public Hearing

Date: March 3, 2003
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: El Paso County Housing Authority
650 East G Ave.
Fabens, Texas 79838

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain input from the city residents in reference to the Five-Year Agency Plan and Annual Plan Submission to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 2003. Total funds being allocated for this year are estimated at \$193,057 for Operating Funds and \$170,996 for Capital Funds. All residents are encouraged to attend this hearing. A copy of the Five-Year Agency Plan and Annual Plan will be available for review from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. prior to public hearing at the address below. Persons can also submit written comments prior to public hearing to:

Housing Authority of the County of El Paso
650 East G Ave.
Fabens, TX 79838

For further information please call Tomas Rodriguez, Executive Director, at (915) 764-3559.

Published in the West Texas County Courier on 02/27/03.

One size

From Page 2

the hairdo of a man of Bill Gates' stature but rises up in indignation when Trent Lott dared to say out loud that he supported Jesse Helms for president?

Our own national double standards should tell us that one size does not fit all.

We are a nation that accepts denigration of the flag in the name of "free speech" by people who then continue to partake of all the blessings of which that flag is a symbol.

We want our personal privacy to be treated with respect and dignity and yet believe it is our "right to know" and to join in the feeding frenzy over details of others' misdeeds.

We have forgotten that all we really need a healthy dose of good manners mixed with a little consideration for the other guy.

That's one size we should never outgrow.



Veterans Land Board offers financial aid to those called up to active duty

AUSTIN — As the nation approaches a possible war in Iraq, the Texas Veterans Land Board is offering financial peace of mind to Texas reservists and National Guard troops called to active duty in the war against terror.

Chairman of the Veterans Land Board Jerry Patterson has announced the Board will vote this week to waive interest payments on all Land Board home and home improvement loans for these Texans for as long as they are on active duty.

"Texas reservists and Guard members are truly citizen-soldiers," said Patterson, a Vietnam veteran and former member of the Marine Corps Reserve. "They leave their home, family, and job to put their lives on the line for the rest of us. Tough economic times make this sacrifice even more difficult. We have an obligation to do all we can to ease the financial burden of serving their country."

Under this policy, reservists and National Guard members would only pay the principal portion of their loans and any required escrows for taxes and insurance as long as they're on active duty. There would also be a three-month grace period after participants are de-activated before interest payments would resume.

Participants could save thousands of dollars and would not have to repay the interest after returning to civilian life if the proposal is approved, Patterson said. He noted his goal is to lower monthly expenses for military men and women called up for future contingencies, such as a possible war in Iraq, because their incomes are typically much lower until they return to civilian life.

Patterson's proposal would also let reservists and National Guard members defer their entire monthly payments on land loans funded by the Veterans Land Board, as long as they're on active duty. If participants chose to continue land loan payments while on active duty or during the grace period, their payments would go toward reducing the principal balance of these loans. Veterans who have participated in the program have greatly reduced their principal balances by continuing to make payments, although it was not required.

"Like all Veterans Land Board loan programs, this one would also be cost-free for Texas taxpayers," Patterson said. "Our loan programs have always been self-funding." Patterson said the Veterans Land Board is going above and beyond what is required by a federal law called the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940. This law allows eligible activated reservists and National Guard members to have their interest rates reduced to 6 percent on current loans, including loans from private lenders. Under Patterson's proposal, the interest on Veterans Land Board home loans would be zero.

Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, this same benefit was offered to reservists and National Guard members called up for operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Some of these veterans have saved as much as \$6,000 a year, or reduced the principal balance on Veterans Land Board land loans by more than 50 percent. Eligible reservists and National Guard members who want reduced or deferred loan payments should send the Texas Veterans Land Board a copy of their orders show-

El Paso gas prices not the worst in the area

EL PASO COUNTY — Maybe you paid a little more or less at the pump than the average gas price of \$1.55 a gallon in El Paso County last week, but it was still likely less than that of other regional communities. At that price, however, El Paso matched its record highest average gas price ever, set in May of 2001.

El Paso had the lowest average gas price of ten regional cities including Santa Fe, N.M., at \$1.66; Flagstaff, AZ, at \$1.70; Las Vegas, NV, with \$1.76; and Durango, CO, at \$1.63, according to AAA New Mexico, which tracks gas prices for traveling customers.

Tucson, AZ, posted an average price of \$1.69, which is eight cents higher than their record average set in May of 2001.

Albuquerque, NM, at \$1.59 is still a nickel shy of its record price of \$1.64, set in May of 2001, and Las Cruces, NM, at \$1.58 per gallon, is only one cent short of its record price set in June of 2001.

ing activation and return dates. Additional information on the program and federal protections is available at (800) 252-VETS and the Texas Veterans Land Board Web site at www.txvets.com.

Information is also available on Texas State Veterans Homes for veterans or their spouses who need skilled nursing home care, and state home, land and home improvement loans for Texas veterans.

In El Paso, assistance is available at 401 East Franklin, Suite 584 in El Paso, TX 79901-1213, phone 915-834-5886, (FAX) 915-834-5891

View from here By Jim Hightower

America is dumping toxic computers on Asia

Bill Gates, Michael Dell, and the other poobahs of high-techery not only like to gloat about their computer wizardry and business success, but they also brag that theirs is a "clean industry" and that they are corporate environmentalists.

They might try selling that load of crap to the people around Guiya, China. This is one of the low-wage hell holes that America's high-tech executives use as a dumping ground for their electronics waste, which includes some 45 million computers that are discarded annually. The dirty little secret of the industry is that our computers are loaded with toxins, and a new report called "Exporting Harm: The Techno-Trashing of Asia" reveals that these poisons are causing environmental and health disasters in the lands where they're dumped, far from the sight and out of the minds of the billionaires who profit from selling them.

Technically, says the industry, the discarded electronics are not dumped, but "recycled." In reality what happens is that poor Asians are paid a pittance to scavenge various metals and other re-sellable compounds out of these machines. Indeed, about 100,000 people — including thousands of children — in Guiya toil in the midst of piles of electronic trash, smelting circuit boards, using acid to extract traces of gold, dumping cathode ray tubes filled with lead, opening toner cartridges by hand to brush the toxic toner into buckets, and burning plastic components. Guiyu's groundwater is now so polluted that the people have to truck in water for human use.

While Europe is moving to require its computer makers to accept dis-

posal responsibility for their hazardous products, industry lobbyists here have stifled any such moves. Also, while there's a 1989 international treaty to limit the export of toxic wastes, the United States is the only developed country that has refused to sign it. There's nothing clean about exporting toxics. For a copy of this report, call: Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition at 408-287-6707.

Radio talk-show host and author Jim Hightower is a former agricultural commissioner of Texas. His latest book, "If The Gods Had Meant Us To Vote, They Would Have Given Us Candidates" (Harper-Collins). For more information, call 866-271-4900.

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Village of Vinton PUBLIC NOTICE

For the customers of:
Vinton Village Estates Water System
Villa Alegre Estates Water System
Vinton Hills Water System

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at Vinton Village Hall, 436 Vinton Rd., Vinton, Texas. Purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding:

- 1) RH Brown, the owner of the water systems listed above is proposing a rate increase as follows:
 - 3,000 Gallons — \$12.00 Minimum Charge;
 - Each Additional 1,000 Gallons — \$1.50.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Clerk of the Village of Vinton.

CAMILLE CASTILLO
Village Clerk

WTCC: 02/27/03

Men's Basketball

Last Home Games! Last Home Games!

- Thursday, Feb. 27 vs. Louisiana Tech
- Saturday, Mar. 1 vs. SMU

Sponsored by:

Games played in the Don Haskins Center at 7 PM

For ticket information call: 747-5234

Smith's disrespect to USA is both immature and ungrateful

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

With the threat of war looming over the country, Americans are divided on whether attacking Iraq and ousting Saddam Hussein is a good idea.

Most Americans are in favor of declaring war on the regime led by Hussein, but a fair amount of people around the United States are dead-set against it.

But that's one of the rights we Americans tend to take for granted. Not that we take the right to announce our displeasure for granted — we do enough of that. But many Americans tend to forget what it took to give them the right to say "I don't agree," with their government without any threat of repercussion.

One such person that has absolutely no idea what certain individuals have gone through to ensure her comfortable lot in life is Manhattanville college senior Toni Smith.

Seems Smith, a forward on the girl's basketball team, has had the habit of physically

turning her back on the American flag during the playing of the National Anthem before her team's games this season to protest what she describes as "the inequalities that are embedded into the American system."

Smith's mother recently told reporters that basketball has always been her daughter's passion, but she added that her daughter also reads the newspapers, and that her professors have encouraged her to think for herself.

But is this Division III basketball player really thinking? Is she taking into account the people that have laid down their lives over the years so that this country could be a place where she could be free to express her opinion against her own government.

The way I look at it, I can disagree with the leaders of my country, and I often have, but it's quite another thing to turn my back on the flag. The flag represents my country, the wonderful opportunities it presents, and the men and women who have fought to defend the freedom I am lucky to enjoy every day.

I'd like to see Miss Smith go to one of many other countries in this world and turn her back

to their flag or to the leaders of that country. I wonder what would happen to her freedom, not to mention her health.

I'm not the only person who is angry and sadly disappointed at Smith's naïve behavior. A man ran out on the court at her last game and waved an American flag in front of her face while she was waiting on the line for another player to shoot a free throw.

The guy, though stupid for running onto the court during the game, was a Vietnam veteran who took offense at Smith's disrespect.

It doesn't end there. First-year head coach Shawn Lincoln has tried to keep his team focused this season. But Lincoln says Smith's protests have caused dissension in the locker room and provoked protests at several arenas.

In a recent game at Mount St. Mary, the student government there handed out small American flags before the game. The crowd at the game got on Smith every time she touched the ball and proudly sang "God Bless America" at the end of the game.

It was a little worse at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Feb. 11. Manhattanville

played there to more than 300 flag-waving midshipmen, which greeted Smith with chants of "USA" and "Leave our country."

Remember, every citizen of this country has the right to protest against whatever injustice they feel is being perpetrated. Every citizen has the freedom to say just about anything they want to say.

But let's not turn our back to the flag, while at the same time, being a hypocrite and take advantage of all the freedoms and riches this country has to offer.

Toni Smith would do well to take stock of her life and be grateful for all the liberties she acquired simply for doing nothing more than being born in this country.

It's always amazes me how the Americans who make it a point to put down the United States always seem to do it from their cushy homes in — of all places — the United States.

They don't dare leave the friendly confines.

People who feel like Smith and stay in this country only prove that they are ungrateful, unappreciative and immature — but they're certainly not stupid.

Hearts

From Page 1

between the two chambers of Danielle's heart weren't considered life threatening but doctors were unsure of what complications could occur later in the little girl's life.

"We caught it before we let it get too far," Lujan said. "The heart was already becoming enlarged."

As for Cedillo, his scare came in February 2001, when the pain on his left side during a trip to Dallas became unbearable.

"The doctors performed a stress test and then a heart catheter showed 50 percent blockage in a vein leading up to the heart," Cedillo said. "They then performed the angioplasty."

Today, all three walk the halls of Loya Primary, each in better health and feeling better every day. Thanks to outreach programs like the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart program, more and more people with heart problems are living healthier lives as well as helping people become aware of good heart care.

For more information on Jump Rope for Heart, visit the American Heart Association's web site, www.americanheart.org.

Briefs

From Page 1

will receive a certificate and cake will be provided on Monday, March 3, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information call (915) 764-3635.

■ Signups for Horizon City Little League will be held Saturdays and Sundays, March 1 through March 16, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Horizon Vista Food Store for players age 8-12 (must not be 13 before Aug. 1). The team, sanctioned through Little League, Inc., will play a minimum of a 12-game season beginning April 19. Tryouts will be held at the Horizon Municipal Park on March 22. Registration fee is \$25 per player. Coaches, umpires, field maintenance and concession help also needed. Call John Dixon at 852-9349 or Van Boatright at 852-3949 for more information.

■ At about 9 a.m. on Feb. 22 an individual in El Paso being questioned by Border Patrol Agents concerning his immigration status fled the scene. As he was pursued, agents said he assaulted one of the agents and subsequently attacked one of the officers with a

length of metal pipes, at which time he was fatally shot by the agent. He was taken by EMS to Thomason Hospital but was pronounced dead. The El Paso Police Dept. and the FBI are both investigating the incident.

■ Over the holiday weekend, Border Patrol agents found a sizable load of marijuana abandoned in burlap bags near I-10, east of the Ft. Hancock port of entry. The agents found two mules and several burlap bundles after following animal and tennis shoe tracks coming from the U.S./Mexico border.

■ For the fifth consecutive legislative session, State Rep. Joe C. Pickett has made arrangements with Time Warner Cable to air excerpts of the legislative session beginning Feb. 24, 2003. The excerpts will be from the House chamber floor or House committee hearings. The hour-long broadcast will be Monday-Friday at 6 p.m. on Cable Channel 15.

■ Three Socorro ISD administrators and one Fabens ISD administrator were named among the top administrators for the year in Region 19 by Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. In Socorro ISD, James Kelch, principal of Americas High School; Robert Abdou, AHS assistant principal; and Mason Gray, assistant principal at

Montwood Middle School, were tapped for the honor. Pat Silva, principal of Fabens Middle School, was also honored.

■ The Texas Middle Schools Association honored Socorro ISD's Michael Huggins of Montwood Middle School during the Feb. 27 conference in Ft. Worth, for excellence in education. Col. John O. Ensor Middle School, also in Socorro ISD, was given the Elmer Watson Recognition Award for Region 19 during the conference.

■ Citizenship classes will be offered free of charge to the community and surrounding areas at Lorenzo G. Loya Primary, 13705 Socorro Road, San Elizario, TX 79849. Classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and on Wednesday evenings, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Letty Larriva, 872-3939, ext. 3567 or Dolores Ake, 872-3939, ext. 3740.

■ The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Annual Pennies for Patients campaign was launched last week in the San Elizario ISD. Loya Primary School, Sambrano Elementary, Alarcon Elementary, Borrego Elementary, and the San Elizario Middle School collected \$4,671.

King Super Crossword

WHAT A REELIEF!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brno bloke
 - 6 "Show" ('94 film)
 - 10 Ferber or O'Brien
 - 14 Hum bug?
 - 17 Buy back
 - 19 Till
 - 20 Approaches
 - 22 _Locka, FL
 - 23 Luanda's land
 - 24 "_ fixe"
 - 25 Start of a remark
 - 27 Curly poker?
 - 28 Way out
 - 30 Actress Sorvino
 - 31 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'_"
 - 32 Tizzy
 - 33 French novelist
 - 36 Sell out
 - 37 Part 2 of remark
 - 42 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
 - 43 Wine valley
 - 44 Cabinet wood
 - 45 Pack the freight
 - 47 Upset
 - 51 Panache
 - 53 Weldon or Wray
 - 56 Horatian creation
 - 57 Christened
 - 58 Role for 80 Down
 - 60 Ida of "High Sierra"
 - 62 Wear out the carpet
 - 63 Vaccaro or Lee
 - 65 Barbara's rank
 - 66 Holler
 - 69 Part 3 of remark
 - 73 Sausage segment
 - 74 Knock for _ (aston-ish)
 - 76 Ran amok
 - 77 Dashboard feature
 - 79 Explosive mixture
 - 81 No pleasure trip
 - 82 Complains
 - 84 You can retire on it
 - 87 "Casualties of War" setting
 - 88 Pigeonhole
 - 90 Resilience
 - 92 Carpenter's tool
 - 93 Celebrations
 - 95 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 96 Unadorned
 - 98 Part 4 of remark
 - 104 Mr. Hiss
 - 105 Paradisiacal
 - 106 Romain de Tirtoff
 - 107 Nero's instrument
 - 108 From the top
 - 109 Big rig
 - 110 Deity
 - 113 End of remark
 - 115 George of "Scarface"
 - 118 Journalist Fallaci
 - 120 _ Na Na
 - 121 Sharon of Israel
 - 122 Comrade
 - 123 Expire
 - 124 Shorten a skirt
 - 125 Valuable
 - 126 Linen in the

beginnin'?

- 127 Rhythm of life
- DOWN**
- 1 Learn fast?
 - 2 Paradoxical philosopher
 - 3 Maugham's "The Razor's _"
 - 4 Corporate VIP
 - 5 Actress Bonham Carter
 - 6 Pack it in
 - 7 Sturm _ Drang
 - 8 "Graph" ending
 - 9 Caldwell or Akins
 - 10 Don a uniform
 - 11 Want
 - 12 Astronauts' agcy.
 - 13 School subject
 - 14 Colombia's capital
 - 15 Screenwriter Nora
 - 16 Consumed
 - 18 Adage
 - 21 Percussion instrument
 - 26 PR concern
 - 29 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
 - 30 "The Ghost and Mrs. _" ('47 film)
 - 32 Nab a gnat
 - 33 Heaped
 - 34 Funnyman Foxx
 - 35 Be obligated
 - 37 _-European
 - 38 "You _ it!"
 - 39 Chartres part

40 Ming thing

- 41 Pie _ mode
- 46 Feel awful
- 48 Genetic info
- 49 Apiece
- 50 Daub
- 51 Ward (off)
- 52 New Jersey borough
- 53 Pacific archipelago
- 54 Shortly
- 55 Michael of "Cabaret"
- 58 Stream
- 59 Expect back
- 61 Dampener
- 62 Conspire
- 63 Eight bits
- 64 Lama turf
- 66 James of "Brian's Song"
- 67 _ mater
- 68 Corn Belt soil
- 70 Core
- 71 Skin feature
- 72 Present
- 75 Cartwright ranch
- 78 "Just _ thought!"
- 80 Ms. Taylor
- 82 Mont _
- 83 Relaxation
- 84 Logroll
- 85 Sicilian smoker
- 86 Stained
- 89 Middling mark
- 90 Morlocks' prey
- 91 Rib _
- 92 Amphitheater fea-

ture

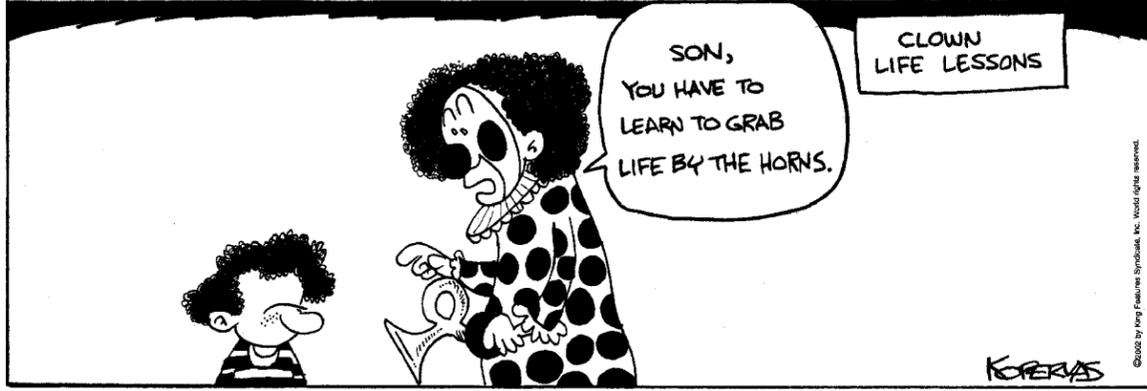
- 93 Expanded
- 94 Writer Rand
- 96 "Hail to thee, _ spirit!"
- 97 Massachusetts city
- 99 Thin covering
- 100 Swimmer Gertrude
- 101 Elfin
- 102 Strong suit
- 103 Foment
- 104 Simian
- 108 Saucony rival
- 109 Charon's river
- 110 Sheffield slammer
- 111 Burden
- 112 Granola fruit
- 114 Rink legend
- 115 Brit. fliers
- 116 Dryden's "_ for Love"
- 117 Neighbor of Ga.
- 119 Shiba _ (Japanese dog)

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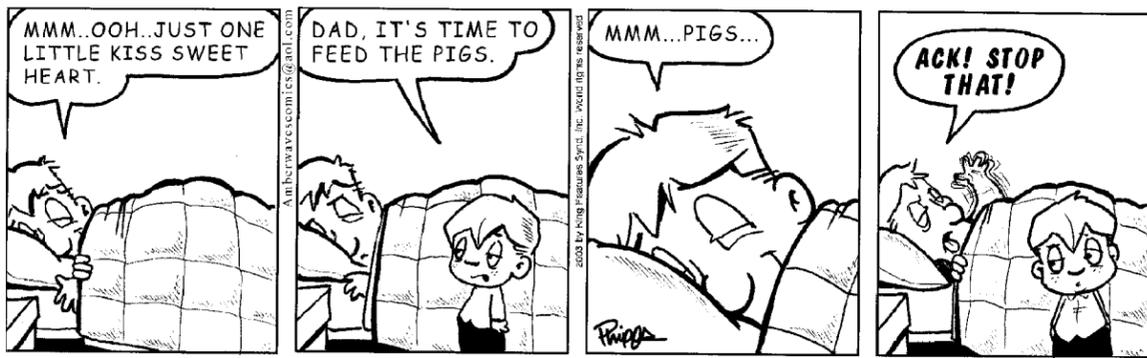
Answer Page 4

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D. By Mike Marland



Be careful when biting bagel

By Don Flood

So sue me!
That must be the motto of McDonald's, the fast-food giant. You may recall a few years ago when they were sued for selling too-hot coffee. More recently, McDonald's was sued for conspiring to make everybody in the U.S. fat by serving hamburgers and french fries. (Amazingly enough, this lawsuit was dismissed despite the obvious evidence to the contrary. Go to any McDonald's. What do you see? People eating hamburgers and french fries! What more proof do you need?) You would think that would be enough evil for any but the most dastardly corporation, but no, McDonald's is now bent on *destroying the institution of marriage*.

According to an AP story, "a couple is suing the franchisee of a McDonald's restaurant, claiming an improperly prepared bagel damaged the husband's teeth and their marriage."

The suit, which is asking \$15,000 in damages, alleges that the wife — because of said bagel — "lost the care, comfort, consortium and society of her husband."

I don't know about you, but to me, there's nothing sadder than a once-happy union torn apart by an improperly prepared bagel.

But how, I wondered, had his wife lost the "consortium" of her husband?

I checked the dictionary, which defined consortium as "an association or grouping of institutions, businesses or financial organizations, usually set up for a common purpose that would be beyond the capabilities of a single member of the group."

Whoa!
I wasn't sure what that had to do with marriage, but whatever it was I figured I couldn't print it in a family newspaper.

There was, however, a second, archaic definition: "the right of husbands or wives to the company, affection and help of their spouses."

Well, I'm all in favor of that, and I would do my utmost to make sure no bagel stood in the way of enjoying the consortium of my wife.

But this case brings up a serious point.

Too often movies and bridal magazines paint a too-perfect picture of a blissful life together, never showing the effects of real-life confrontations with sub-par bagels.

Here are some surprising responses to a recent poll that asked people why their marriage didn't last:

- Couldn't agree on which TV shows to watch — 14 percent.
- Infidelity — 26 percent.
- Unable to enjoy each other's "consortium" following painful experience with bagel — 45 percent.
- Objected to being part of obviously bogus survey — 15 percent.

One bit of good advice for young couples: When writing your "personalized" marriage vows consider the various food products you will face in your married life and how you would handle them.

Bad coffee? Burnt toast? Think about how these might affect your intended's right to enjoy your consortium, *before you get married*.

And while you may hope and pray that you are spared, the hard truth is that you never know when a bagel with your name on it is coming your way.

To overcome these bagels, couples must be truly committed. They might also want to stick to french fries.

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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:

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
CSP NO.199-0306-0345
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2002, 2:30 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-2/27/03

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:

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003

AIR CONDITIONING ACCESSORIES
CSP NO.199-0306-0339
ACCEPTED UNTIL 3 P.M.

CAFETERIA UTENSILS AND EQUIPMENT
CSP NO.199-0306-0341
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-2/27/03

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all human visual communication. Anyone, from beginner to professional, will benefit from a back-to-basics "Drawing in Perspective" course offered by Horizon Design Consultants. The first class runs March 17-21. The second class is from March 31 to April 4. Class sizes are limited to provide maximum individual attention. Call 852-4817 to reserve and for more information.

ENHANCE YOUR CAREER SKILLS! LEARN TO CREATE GRAPHIC DESIGN
HORIZON DESIGN CONSULTANTS will hold two studio classes this spring entitled Graphic Design: Creating a Dialogue. Part One will be March 18-22; Part Two April 1-5. This is a 30-hour foundational level course introducing concepts and techniques used by graphic artists to create effective visual works. Class sizes are limited so call early to reserve at 852-4817.
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TOWN OF ANTHONY, TEXAS
The Town of Anthony is currently seeking the position of court clerk/office clerk. Please fax resume to Attn: Mayor Art Franco at 915-886-3115. For more information call Myriam at 915-886-3944. Deadline for application is March 7, 2003.
WTCC-2/27/03

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nillo. \$58,000 OBO. (915) 565-6677. 2/27

RENTALS

FOR RENT: 15000 Ashford #70 on the Emerald Springs Golf Course. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, over 1,400 square feet. New carpet and paint. Very clean. \$600 per month. VISION REALTY, 590-7121. 3/6

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 solucion. Visitemos. Alcoholicos Anónimos, Grupo 8 de Enero, 15360 Horizon Blvd., Horizon City, sesiones lunes a sábado a 8 de la tarde. Informacion: 859-0484.

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For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Roll off your back

Oscar material. I and several other people had a front-row seat to a grand temper tantrum recently when a child didn't get her way with her parents. It was a roll-on-the-floor, stamp-your-feet, hold-your-breath kind of performance that, quite frankly, left me breathless. Although I'd give her parents the Oscar for keeping their cool, I sat back and thought: *I feel like doing that at times, too — blowing my top,*

that is — just as their daughter had. What am I saying. I *do* that at times. Well ... maybe I don't roll on the floor, but I've certainly stamped my feet — or worse. What a few years will show the little girl is that the tantrum, although it gets you the immediate attention you want, is a lot like a shaken soda — popping the top relieves the pressure, but you and those around you are left to clean up the spew. In her case, she was marched out

to the car. But we've all had that experience. Maybe not a parent telling us we can't have something in a toy store, but a situation that wasn't in our plans or didn't go our way; someone who has ticked us off, thrown us for a loop or taken the wind out of our sails. And this is what I've noticed about those experiences. In the few seconds after the incident, we have control and can decide whether we are going to throw a fit and let it ruin our day, or if we're going to let it roll off our backs. I watched my husband do this one night when we took our family to the circus. We'd settled into our seats and watched as clowns and a parade of

elephants went past us. A lady squeezed in behind us to join her family. She was carrying a tray full of food, including nachos with hot cheese. You guessed it. In her effort to get past the people in the crowded row, she accidentally tipped the tray and the nachos spilled onto my husband's head. When it registered with him what had happened — he first thought the elephants had messed on him — I could see him weighing his reaction options as the kids and I scrambled to wipe the dripping cheese out of his hair. The cheese scalded his scalp. Who would have blamed him if he'd

thrown a hissy, stamped his feet and said: *Forget it, we're leaving.* But during those couple of seconds we all take to decide what our reaction to a situation will be, he chose to let it roll off his back and not let it ruin his day. After the initial shock wore off, he smiled (sort of), took out his comb and slicked back his cheesy hair. I learned a lot from him that night: that we choose how we look at a situation and decide what it's going to do to us. Sometimes we give in to the temper tantrum; sometimes we're just so grateful we're not dealing with elephant poop. (c) 2003 King Features Synd., Inc.

WEATHER

AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR EL PASO

THURSDAY	THUR. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Breezy with times of clouds and sun.	Partly cloudy.	Sunny to partly cloudy and breezy.	Times of clouds and sun.	Mostly cloudy; maybe a shower.	Partly sunny.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine, breezy.	Mostly cloudy with a shower possible; windy.
▲ 58°	▼ 38°	▲ 62° ▼ 36°	▲ 64° ▼ 40°	▲ 62° ▼ 34°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 66° ▼ 38°	▲ 60° ▼ 34°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	6	Moderate
Friday	7	High
Saturday	5	Moderate
Sunday	5	Moderate
Monday	7	High
Tuesday	4	Low
Wednesday	6	Moderate

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	56	40
Canutillo	57	41
Clint	56	40
E. Montana	58	38
Fabens	56	40
Horizon	57	41
San Elizario	54	38
Socorro	57	38
Tornillo	56	40
Vinton	57	41



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	48/32/c	50/29/c	52/33/c	55/32/c	56/14/pc
Atlanta	51/36/r	54/35/pc	55/37/pc	58/39/s	60/25/c
Atlantic City	34/27/sn	39/27/sf	39/29/s	43/28/c	43/24/pc
Austin/San Antonio	62/40/c	61/43/pc	64/45/pc	64/50/pc	65/32/pc
Baltimore	32/28/sn	38/24/sf	38/28/pc	44/26/c	44/22/pc
Boston	30/24/pc	32/20/pc	34/26/s	40/26/c	38/20/pc
Chicago	32/17/c	34/20/pc	36/24/sf	36/21/pc	32/6/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	50/38/c	52/39/pc	55/43/pc	58/46/pc	60/26/pc
Denver	34/20/c	36/22/sf	45/26/pc	46/24/pc	46/8/s
Flagstaff	33/18/c	38/18/pc	42/20/c	43/20/c	43/5/pc
Houston	59/43/c	64/47/pc	68/49/pc	66/50/c	66/50/pc
Kansas City	34/22/sf	36/28/sf	42/26/pc	44/24/pc	44/11/s
Las Vegas	58/40/c	58/40/pc	60/42/c	61/41/pc	63/38/pc
Miami	84/67/pc	83/66/t	80/68/t	80/66/c	83/61/pc
Minneapolis	32/16/pc	30/14/c	32/14/sf	22/12/c	24/3/pc
New Orleans	59/47/c	63/47/pc	68/48/pc	68/50/pc	67/37/c
New York City	31/28/c	34/28/sf	36/30/s	41/31/c	38/26/pc
Philadelphia	33/28/c	38/25/sf	38/28/s	42/26/c	42/24/pc
Phoenix	60/46/c	64/48/pc	68/49/c	68/49/c	69/34/pc
Portland	48/36/c	52/36/c	54/36/pc	54/38/s	54/48/s
San Francisco	60/46/pc	58/48/pc	58/44/pc	60/46/pc	61/47/pc
Seattle	48/36/c	50/38/c	52/38/pc	52/38/s	51/49/pc
Tucson	58/40/c	64/40/pc	66/40/pc	64/40/c	68/30/pc
Washington, DC	32/28/sn	38/26/sf	40/30/pc	46/28/c	47/25/pc

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	55°
Friday	51°
Saturday	54°
Sunday	52°
Monday	56°
Tuesday	55°
Wednesday	55°

AGRICULTURE

A weak trough aloft will result in cool weather across the area Thursday and Friday. Both days will be dry with at least several hours of sunshine and a breeze at times. Still mainly dry Saturday with clouds and sunshine. A disturbance could trigger a shower across the area on Sunday, but any rainfall is expected to be light.

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