



NEWSBRIEFS

Public bond meetings

Canutillo Independent School District officials will hold community forums to present information and answer questions about the April 12 bond issue election for \$12.3 million. The public is invited to attend. The meetings are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and will be held: Tuesday, March 25, at Canutillo High School (7311 Bosque Road); Wednesday, March 26, at Childress Elementary School (7700 Cap Carter Road); Thursday, March 27, at Canutillo Elementary School (651 Canutillo Avenue). Early voting for the April 12 bond election begins Wednesday, March 26 and ends April 8. Early voting places are from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Canutillo Elementary School (651 Canutillo Avenue), and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Vinton Town Hall (436 Vinton Road).

Fabenites recognized

Two students from Fabens have been recognized by the El Paso Community College "Ladders to Excellence" Student Art Exhibit which opened Feb. 27, according to Fisd student reporter Michele Gonzales. "Jeremy Reyes, a second grader at Fabens Primary, placed second and Delilah Avelar, a kindergarten student at Risinger Primary, placed third in the K-2 division," Gonzales said. "Amidst a well-deserved round of applause, each was awarded a plaque at a reception held at the EPCC Administrative Service Center." Their art work, as well as that of other area art students, was on display through March 13.

In other news

■ The 21st Annual Lower Valley Health Fair — sponsored by the Lower Valley School Nurse Association, the El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District, Del Sol Medical Center and other county health agencies — will be held on April 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda. Hundreds of valley residents attend the event annually, where more than 80 health and emergency services agencies offer advice and free screenings for cholesterol blood sugar, blood pressure, pap smears and other tests. Children may receive immunizations for \$10, though if unable to pay, none will be turned away. Socorro students and community groups will provide entertainment throughout the day. Two Family Fun Walks will be held beginning at 10 a.m. and at 11:15 a.m. For more information call Socorro's Health Services at 937-4044.

■ The Horizon City Lions Club will celebrate 36 years of community service on March 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Oz Glaze Senior Center and the public is invited to

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Anybody who thinks Americans lack imagination has never worked for the IRS.

— Quips & Quotes

State grant will make trek to school much safer for San Eli kids

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

SAN ELIZARIO — Students, their safety and their academic achievements, highlighted the March 12 meeting of the board of trustees of the San Elizario Independent School District.

Robert Longoria, director of Support Services, explained the district is one of the recipients of state funds to ensure the safety of Borrego Elementary students walking to and from school who are at risk from traffic along Chicken Ranch Road, particularly at its intersection with Alarcon.

The state's Safe Routes to School program has earmarked \$201,160 — \$40,232 of which

is a match from El Paso County. The money, Longoria explained, goes for paved shoulders, curbing and bicycle paths along Chicken Ranch and Alarcon where it intersects with Chicken Ranch. The paved section would be 10 feet wide and would extend for about 1,100 yards along the two roads.

Third- and fourth-graders and parents, he later said, are at risk as they walk along the dirt shoulder of the road with vehicular traffic close by. He said it was especially bad at the intersection of the two roads where a culvert makes it necessary to walk in the road to get around it.

"People are real excited about it," he said. "This construction will give them a

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Canutillo administration says bond will provide state of the art school, updates

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

CANUTILLO — The new Canutillo High School took center stage March 11 as the Canutillo ISD board of trustees went over plans with architect Sergio Martinez with a fine-tooth comb.

Martinez, principal in the firm of Dimensions Architects International, answered questions from board members who pored over floor plans for the three-wing school which will have 97 classrooms. Using multi-dimensional representations of the school, Martinez gave an update on plans and said grading work would begin this month.

"This is a design that will stand on its own." He later indicated that final plans are about 30 percent complete, and that the erection of walls is expected to begin in November.

His update came against the background of a series of community forums held to inform voters about an April 12 school bond election. At its February meeting trustees unanimously approved asking voters to pass a \$12.3 million bond issue that breaks down to \$7.3 million going for new high school enhancements and \$5 million for enhancements and improvements to six existing campuses.

"I'm getting excited about the bond election," said Charles Hart in his superintendent's

See CANUTILLO, Page 4

Horizon police sergeant makes history with graduation from FBI National Academy

HORIZON — Sgt. Ron Swenson, an eight-year veteran of the Horizon City Police Department, will graduate from the FBI National Academy, the 212th session, on March 21,

2003 — the second youngest ever to graduate from the FBI National Academy and the first NA graduate from the HCPD or any other small rural police department in the El Paso County law enforcement community.

The graduation, which takes place at the FBI Academy, United States Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia, culminates 11 weeks of extensive academic and physical training. Swenson was given instruction in law, leadership develop-

ment, law enforcement communication, behavioral science, forensic science, and physical training.

Sgt. Swenson can be credited with 13 to 19 semester hours of academic work. All FBI NA graduates are required to take the 44-hour non-credit Fitness in Law Enforcement course.

Sgt. Swenson will return to Horizon City to assume his duties with the HCPD on March 24.

"Congratulations to Sgt. Swenson for his accomplishment and graduation from the FBI National Academy," said HCPD Chief Tony Aguilar, who also graduated from the FBI National Academy, in the 126th session.



CHALLENGING THE COURSE — During training at the FBI National Academy, Horizon Police Sgt. Ron Swenson participated in the Challenge Run. Swenson was one of only eight law enforcement officers from this region — which includes the El Paso, Midland and Odessa metropolitan areas — who will attend the FBI NA this year.



CAUCUS CONFERENCE — Moments before the news conference launching the U.S./Mexico Congressional Caucus, Congressman Henry Bonilla confers with Caucus Chairman David Dreier. Bonilla was selected as Vice Chairman.

Congressional Caucus formed to improve working relationship with Mexico

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S./Mexico Congressional Caucus has officially announced its formation, dedicating itself to generating stronger relations between the neighboring nations. Senior lawmaker Henry Bonilla has been tapped to serve as Vice Chairman.

"Our nation has changed dramatically since Sept. 11, 2001."

"Our nation has changed dramatically since Sept. 11, 2001. With a changing nation comes a changing border environment. The terrorists are not playing by the old rules and neither should we. We must continue to foster a working relationship with Mexico. Our combined influence will keep our borders and our nations strong and prosperous for many years to come," said Bonilla.

The U.S./Mexico Caucus is a bipartisan group of members of Congress committed to expanding and improving the bilateral economic relationship between the United States and Mexico. The Caucus is currently comprised of 24 members, 13 Republicans and 11 Democrats from 11 states. By initiating a dialogue within the Congress, the Caucus will focus on building upon the two nations' economic relationship, understanding that the long-term solutions to many cross-border issues will be facilitated by our existing partnership.

A press conference was held in Washington, DC to officially launch the Caucus. Among those in attendance were Mexican Ambassador to the United States Juan Jose Bremer and senior members of the United States Chamber of Commerce. Both the ambassador and chamber representatives expressed their enthusiasm and support for the newly formed Caucus.

Bonilla's district includes more than 800 miles of the Texas/Mexico border.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

War — on paper and in the street

I don't know what will happen tomorrow.

I only know it is a sad and somber moment right now. And I can only be grateful that I don't live in Iraq.

By the time this writing reaches publication it is possible that our nation will be at war. That is, at hot war — with bombs, bullets and weapons smashing the life out of human beings, damaging their bodies and decimating the places where they live.

It's not that I disagree with the decision made by our President. One thing that must be said — he carries the courage of his convictions. My eyes have not seen what his ears have heard — the intelligence reports, the satellite photographs, the testimony of men who will never speak in public the things they know.

The U.S. President has just given the Iraqi President 48 hours to get out of town, that is, out of Baghdad, or face the consequences. As an American citizen, a person grateful for our government, for the protections and freedoms I am continually provided, it is not within my prerogative to question that decision.

On paper, it looks easy enough. Our power, our technology, our numbers as stacked up against that of Iraq seem so overwhelming that it resembles "shooting ducks in a barrel" as they used to say.

Devastating. Lightning quick. Irresistible. All these are words being used by U.S. military commanders as they describe the strategy of the assault.

Among the wild cards, they say, are the 60,000 to 70,000 men in Iraq's

Republican Guard — the elite special forces that protect the person of Saddam Hussein himself. They are believed to be the cream of the Iraqi army, skilled in urban warfare, often hidden inside metropolitan areas, surrounded by civilians — and the burning question remains — will Iraqi citizens see us as liberators or invaders?

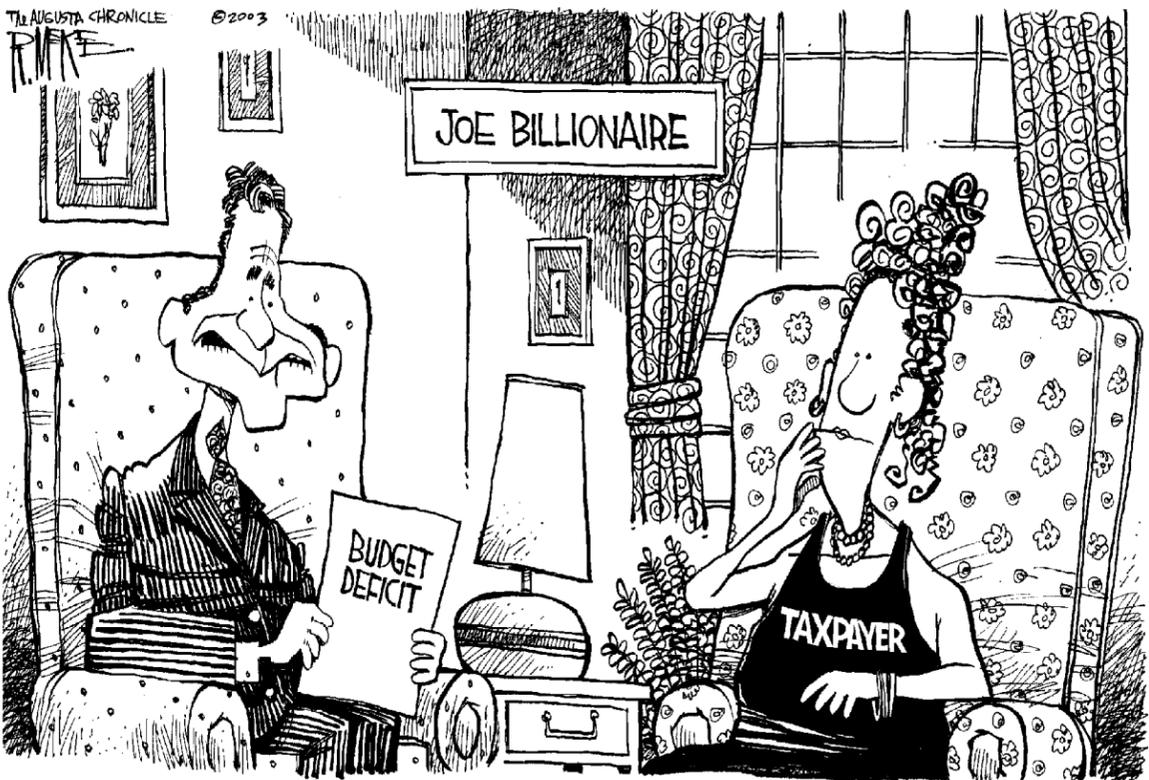
It is for the average Joe in Iraq that I feel sorry. They are each what they have been brought up to be. They have lived for decades under the oppressive rule of a despotic ruler. They have attempted to raise their kids in a society horribly crippled by the consequences of Saddam Hussein's selfish actions in the world arena.

Still, many more of their broken bodies will lie in the streets before Saddam Hussein is ever touched — if the U.S. manages to touch him at all. Once again, they will provide the human insulation that has kept the cold winds of retaliation from penetrating his warm sitting rooms.

I do wonder if the Iraqi citizens understand this. I wonder how much of his propaganda they actually believe — if they can see that their suffering has furthered only the personal goals of a self-centered power-hungry dictator. I wonder if they can see through the falsehoods he preaches to the truth that Iraq's ability to severely cripple and inflict damage upon an opposing country is not for the glory of Iraq but for the glory of Saddam.

A recent documentary about Iraq revealed an odd practice by Saddam

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"I HAVE a CONFESSION: I DON'T REALLY HAVE 300 BILLION DOLLARS..."

30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

Introducing what may become the official Texas state pastry

Hola mi gente — this is your State Representative, writing to you from our great State Capitol, in Austin, Texas — where the wet weather has played havoc on everybody's lives. But, despite the weather, I'm happy to report that we are moving right along, addressing such issues as school financing, Speaking Rock Casino, health, and other pertinent themes.

For this issue, however, I'd like to take a look at something that has to do with our historical roots — namely the Sopaipilla. Do you know what a Sopaipilla is? If you are of Mexican descent, then you must be very familiar with this favorite dish of ours — you must have tasted it at least once in your life. However, for those who are not of Mexican descent, let me explain.

A sopaipilla — a great favorite during the Christmas Holidays — is generally made from flour tortilla dough, deep-fried in lard (or oil), and sprinkled with generous amounts of sugar. So, why is the Sopaipilla so important? Well, not only is it delicious, but it's also historical.

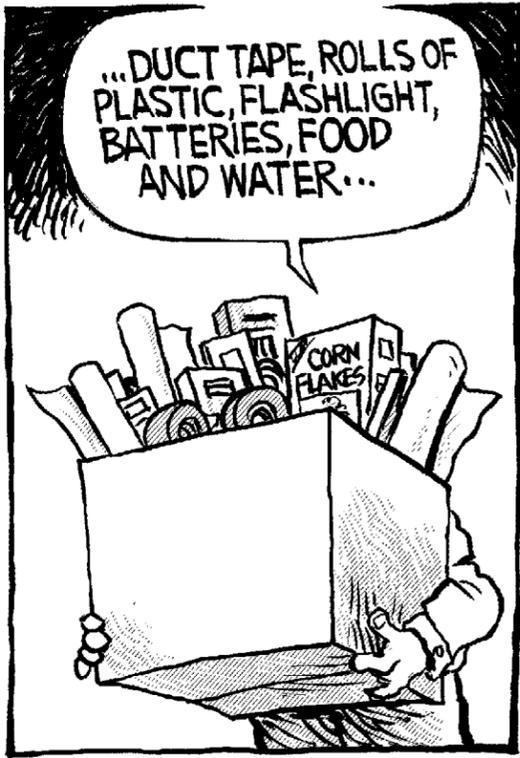
Velia B. Duran, Communities in Schools Coordinator at San Elizario Middle School, is using this tasty treat as a tool to teach young people not only about the historical ramifications of this product, but she's also using the Sopaipilla to teach students to work with the Texas Legislature. What? Sopaipillas at the State Legislature? That's right.

Ms. Duran has been working hard doing research on the origins of this delicious pastry. "I had assumed for years that the Sopaipilla was actually a Mexican pastry," Duran says. "I've since learned, however, that the Sopaipilla was originated as an Indian and Spanish pastry about more than 200 years ago."

To study the origin and history of the Texas Sopaipilla, she introduced The Great Texas Sopaipilla Exploration Project. "It is entirely possible that the Sopaipilla originated in the El Paso County area, noting the early cooking use of both wheat and lard in the communities of San Elizario and Ysleta," Duran said.

Therefore, to assist Ms. Duran in her endeavors, I have decided to file a Concurrent Resolution that would recognize the Sopaipilla as "The Official Pastry of the State of Texas." The important thing about this Resolution is that not only would our students learn about their own history, but they are going to learn about the system and how it can work for their benefit. The participating students shall have the opportunity to learn about the bill process, track the progress of the bill on the Internet, and, if asked, will testify before the House and Senate committees considering their bill. I believe that this is a great way to get our young people involved in the workings of state government. So, thanks to Ms. Duran, and

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BROOKINS RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH



The road to the Capitol

Eye on D.C.



By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

The halls of our nation's Capitol are filled this month with students. Young adults from across America are given one week every Spring to break away from the books and take

a rest from their classroom studies. Hundreds of these students choose Washington, D.C. as their travel destination.

I love this time of year. This week alone, I've met with dozens of students. We discuss everything from how a bill becomes a law to my favorite football team (the Cowboys, of course!).

A few days ago, a young man asked me a very pointed question that stuck in my mind, "How did you become a Congressman?" It's a simple question, but it made me think about my life at age 17.

When I was attending South San Antonio High School, I never thought that I would one day represent you in Washington as a United States Congressman. It was something of a feat for a student to graduate from my high school, let alone go on to college and beyond. Most people assume congressmen have worn suits their entire life, and that a law or business degree is a required ticket of admission. However, Congress is full of self-made men and women who came from every background imaginable. Let me share a few examples with you.

At the young age of 20, Rep Bob Riley of Alabama began selling eggs door to door with his brother. The small operation grew to become one of the largest totally integrated poultry and egg operations in the Southeast.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher of California was the youngest person to win a seat on the coveted New York Stock Exchange at age 25. She worked as a stock trader and investment banker. After moving to California she founded the ChildCare Registry, the first company to provide background information on child-care providers.

Congress has attracted its share of athletes over the years. Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma was a college All-American football player at the University of Oklahoma. He went on to play for the Canadian Football League, and after that became a youth minister. Rep. Steve Largent, also of Oklahoma, was another professional athlete. He played for the Seattle Seahawks for 14 years and was inducted to the NFL Hall of Fame after retiring as the third all-time leader in pass receptions in 1989. Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky was a Major League pitcher and is also a Hall of Famer.

Congress is also honored by the service of true heroes — its war heroes. Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska served his country in an elite Navy SEAL team in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor after losing part of his right leg in action. After returning home from Vietnam, he started building up a chain of successful restaurants and health clubs before he moved to politics. Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano, Texas, is a retired Air Force colonel who endured nearly seven years of brutality — half of that period in solitary confinement — in a North Vietnamese prison camp.

Congress is full of people from all walks of life, many who never ran for office before coming to Washington. My colleagues have included a great songwriter (Sonny Bono), a winemaker, a restaurant manager and a self described "journeyman" carpenter, just to name a few.

America is still a country where the American Dream can become a reality. It's a country where a child living in a public housing project can grow up to become whatever he or she dreams of becoming.

Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Budget-writers want to tap Social Security surplus

The Bush "economic plan" slowed its dizzying spin enough recently for Senate and House budget writers to attempt to find the way back to a balanced budget.

Making the pundit rounds is a pair of "new" plans by Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla) and Rep. Jim Nussle (R-Iowa) who chose different routes. But, they both agree that the Administration's tax cuts can only happen with sizable spending cuts now or later.

Nobody is shocked by that!

Nickles tried to cushion most of the president's tax cuts, using dramatically lowered spending levels in later years to show a balanced budget by 2013 — and after this year's budget plan is a distant memory.

Nussle sketches a quicker fix by 2010.

And, sure to draw friendly and unfriendly fire, both plans want to tap into Social Security surplus funds.

Nussle's is more explosive because he wants to cut \$470 billion over the next decade from spending for the poor and elderly, veterans

benefits, farm programs, child nutrition and food stamps.

One analyst says that just the \$12 billion whack on food stamps alone would be detrimental.

So far, both budget committees — top-heavy with conservative members — have tentatively okayed both plans.

But moderate Republicans are already defecting in advance of heavy opposition on both Senate and House floors.

More bad news about the "D" word.

With money being poured into war expenses, nose-diving tax receipts and an expected mushrooming of health care costs, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) came out a few days ago with a new tally on the cost of the president's budget plan.

No surprise, then, that minus any of the current spending or tax proposals or a war with Iraq, the 2003 deficit would reach \$246 billion. That's \$47 billion, or 24 percent, above what the CBO calculated for the deficit just two months ago.

With the Bush proposals, the CBO

says the deficit would rocket to \$287 billion this year and \$338 billion in 2004. The deficit would remain through 2013, or about the time that the first wave of baby-boomers settle into retirement with the country \$2.7 trillion in debt.

The White House says it's banking on the economy getting back to its feet sooner or later — but better sooner. Also, they say the outlay for war and reconstruction with Iraq is only a one-time cost. Not to worry, says Treasury Secretary John W. Snow, adding revenue growth is strong.

And, even the CBO offers that a slow economic recovery could get things back to a surplus as soon as 2008. But, as has been reported already, that "assumes tax and spending policies that even the administration says are unrealistic: no war with Iraq, no more tax cuts, no prescription drug benefit for Medicare, spending growth that only keeps up

with inflation, and the earlier tax cuts are allowed to vanish by 2011."

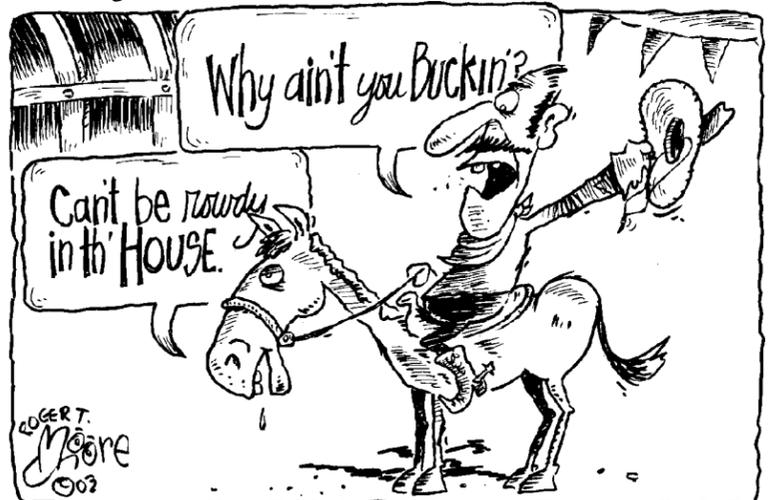
The CBO itself estimates that by 2013 "spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — the largest programs for the elderly — will have reached \$1.7 trillion, or 53 percent of the budget, up from this year's 42 percent."

And, let alone war and reconstruction in Iraq, there are the anticipated increases in defense spending that CBO economists "fear are now in-

evitable. By locking the military into a variety of new weapons programs,

such as a ballistic missile defense system, the administration's defense plan would push defense spending from about \$349 billion last year to \$408 billion in 2007. But, with inflation-adjusted value, defense costs would average \$428 billion annually between 2008 and 2020 — higher for 12 years than they were at the peak of President Ronald Reagan's Cold War defense buildup."

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore March 11, 1918 W.O. Rominger and Amon Carter stage the world's first indoor rodeo in Ft. Worth.



Clint campuses select Teachers of the Year

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Clint Independent School District campuses have selected their outstanding Teachers of the Year for 2002-2003. These teachers were selected on criteria used by the State of Texas Teacher of the Year committee for their selections of the State Teacher of the Year including a concern for students, ability to work cooperatively with colleagues, a drive to improve instruction, and a desire to make a meaningful contribution to education.

Selected for this honor were Frank Durant, social studies teacher from Clint High School; Mary Jane Kolster, math teacher from Mountain View High School; Irma Zepeda, social studies teacher from Clint Junior High School; David Jasso, band teacher from East Montana Middle School; Leonard

Hoffman, math teacher from Horizon Middle School; Ruth Valdez, 4th grade teacher from CT Welch Intermediate School; Kay Herring, 3rd grade teacher from Surratt Elementary; Lourdes de la Torre, 3rd grade teacher from Desert Hills Elementary; Lucy McGuire, counselor from Red Sands Elementary; and Claudia Ureno-Olivas, 3rd grade teacher from Frank Macias Elementary School.

The Clint ISD T.O.Y. committee will hold interviews of these candidates on April 15 to determine who will be the district's Secondary Teacher for the Year and the Elementary Teacher of the year. The announcement of the District T.O.Y. will be made at a Teacher of the Year Recognition Banquet on April 29, at Emerald Springs Golf Club in Horizon City.

Grant will bring significant upgrades to Clint reading programs

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — The Clint Independent School District's six elementary campuses have been awarded a \$27,311.09 Price's Dairy "Give 'Em Five" Grant. The grant is designed to promote the joy of reading in children in grades Pre-K to 5th, to encourage reading and writing in 6th-12th by developing partnerships within the Clint ISD feeder patterns, and to support the "Read Across America" and "Read Across Clint" Program.

The majority of the money will be used to purchase library books; bring in storyteller and author, Joe Hayes; take children on field trips to local libraries; and create reading nooks on the campuses. Such activities as "Drop Everything and Read" and inviting community members to come to the schools to read to the children are part of the activities this grant will fund. Kits and materials to celebrate "Read Across America" 2004, will

also be purchased.

The goal of this grant is to engender in the students a love for the written word and to produce life-long

readers.

This grant was made possible through a partnership with Price's Dairies and Big 8 Food Store Fabens.



Clint ISD School Board President Jim Pendell, left, and Superintendent Donna Smith, back right, accepted Price's Dairy's grant to the district with the help of some students.

Canutillo

From Page 1

report. "We've built a school the way it ought to be with all the bells and whistles — the cherry on the sundae of everything we've done. I am pushing for it as hard as I can. It's an absolutely beautiful plan," Hart told Martinez.

In his operations report, Dr. John Kessinger, assistant superintendent, said he has attended the community forums in order to dispel rumors about the school and to present factual information so voters can make an informed decision. He added that a fence would soon be going up around the work site facing I-10 and adjacent to the Northwest campus of El Paso Community College.

Kessinger also gave an update on the playground renovation project at Canutillo Elementary. He said the school faculty and staff will have a "community build" celebration on April 5 to assemble the playground equipment which will complete the renovation.

Assistant Supt. Dr. Pam Padilla, in her curriculum report, said she was "cautiously opti-

mistic" about the results of the new TAKS reading test given to third graders on March 4. "We have a good feeling about it," she added.

She said she expected the results of the tests would be going out to parents the week after spring break.

She praised the efforts of the third-grade teachers for their efforts in preparing the students for the more test.

"They deserve a pat on the back; they have been under a lot of stress."

A makeup test is scheduled April 30 for those who failed the first exam. A third opportunity to pass the test would be given in the summer, she said.

In other action, the board approved:

- Contracts with El Paso County for election services for bond election on April 12 and school board election on May 3.

- Reserving approximately 75 acres of land adjacent to Childress Elementary for a proposed Agriculture Sciences and Research Center.

- Adoption of textbooks for 2003-04 school year as recommended by the district textbook committee.

- School calendar for 2003-04 year. Classes begin Aug. 18, 2003 and will end May 28, 2004.

Safety

From Page 1

comfort level.

"Kids will get there (to Borrego) safely." This applies, he added, not only to students but also to parents who often accompany their children, some with infants in strollers.

Longoria said the new construction was in the design phase and would soon be put out to bid. It is anticipated it would be ready for use by the beginning of the fall term.

In response to a concern from a board member, Longoria said he is working with San Elizario Fire Chief Ray Trevizo to allow students safer passage from the middle school across fire department property to the nearby convenience store.

Recognition came for 13 students in the advertising and graphic design class and members of VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) who earned 24 awards March 1 in contests against students from the El Paso, Ysleta and Socorro school districts.

These students will advance to the state level in competition scheduled April 14-17 in Dallas.

Two students received scholarships to Western Technical Institute as a result of their placement. Jesus Martinez finished fourth in auto technology skills and received a \$17,000 scholarship.

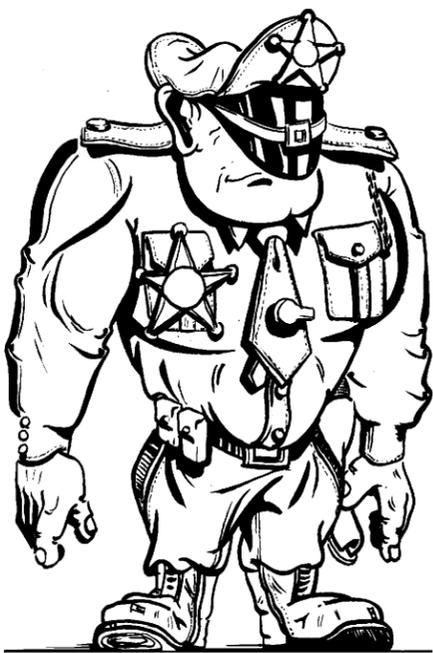
Jimmy Solano earned first place in construction carpentry and received a \$8,000 scholarship. San Elizario dominated this category. Jose Rivera received a second and Gilbert Munoz earned a third.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a contract between the school district and the County Elections Department to conduct school board election on May 3.

- Approved adoption of recommended textbooks.

- Approved adoption of a resolution opposing "any and all voucher proposals introduced in the Texas Legislature either in pilot or full-scale programs." In part, the resolution claims "Texas taxpayers do not want their property taxes raised to compensate for money lost to pay private school tuition for a few ..."



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Canutillo Middle makes fine showing at regional science fair

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

CANUTILLO — Canutillo Middle School students' participation in the recent Sun Country Regional Science Fair proved to be a rewarding experience, as 13 students earned special recognition for their projects.

Reggie Ramos, CMS seventh grade student, placed first in the chemistry division for his project that tested the flammability of different mattress materials. His work was named best chemistry project in the middle school division and earned him a sweepstakes finalist award.

Also placing first in the team division were CMS Eighth graders Missy Bozkurt and Cynthia Campa. Three others won third places and five students earned honorable mention recognition.

Seventh grade students Luis Cervantes and Ismael Lopez were presented a special award, The Milton R. Marshall Sr. Applied Earth and Environmental Award, for their wind erosion project.

Twenty-two CMS students participated in this year's Sun Country science fair which was held at the University of Texas at El Paso in March. This was the third year that CMS students submitted their projects for

judging.

"Our students are getting better at scientific methodology. Their projects show expanded genuine research, more controlled variables and repeated trials," said Robert Marshall, CMS science teacher and Canutillo's District Science Fair coordinator.

The CMS projects entered in the Sun Country Fair were selected from the more than 155 entries in 11 different categories submitted in the middle school's annual science fair,

held in February.

Assisting Marshall with the science fair program were CMS teachers Rita Paton, Ruben Galaviz, Mike Garcia, Rebecca Garcia, Todd Martin, and Aurora Davis.

The Sun Country fair brought together students from schools through the region to vie for sweepstakes honors and the right to represent El Paso in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2003, which is scheduled for May 11-17, in Cleveland, Ohio.



OFF TO THE FAIR — Canutillo Middle School students competing in the Sun Country Science Fair are shown, from left, Carlos Carrasco, Cynthia Campa, Ari Espinoza, Arlene Villa, Ashley Copeland, Derrick Hartsell; middle row, Ileana Loe, Daisy Guerrero, Ruby Valdivia, Maria Vasquez, Nayelie Rodriguez, Debbie Cantu, Tiffany Arce, Nathaniel Deragowski; back row, Jose Ochoa, Eddie Rascon, Frank Molina, Brian Soto, Missy Bozkurt, Reggie Ramos, Celeste Trejo, and Brian Solis.

County of El Paso schedules Business Fair Series

EL PASO COUNTY — The Regional Economic Development Group of the County of El Paso, Texas and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are joining together to present the County of El Paso Business Fair Series. The fairs will include SBA lenders and business partners who provide free assistance to small business owners or start-up businesses. The third business fair in the series will take place on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the City of Socorro Rio Vista Community Center Horizon City at 901 Rio Vista.

The business fair will include lend-

ers who are interested in loaning money for small business and a presentation on the City/County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF Loan). The County RLF loan may assist businesses who are applying for loans but who have not been successful because of equity requirements to help secure the loan. The RLF loan helps by providing additional funds by offering a low interest rate loan with a five year repayment term.

SBA business partners who will be present include the Small Business Development Center of the El Paso Community College, Women's Business Border Center of The El Paso

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Service Corps of Retired Executives and Business Information Center of The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

There is no cost to attend the business fair and refreshments will be served. For more information and directions call 858-2915 or Melodya Salas, County of El Paso, Texas (915) 543-3845 ext 4077.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>

For Sanity's Sake By Taprina Milburn

Culture clash

culture: a high degree of taste and refinement by aesthetic and intellectual training.

As a parent, I've yelled myself hoarse at baseball games, been slimed by animals at petting zoos, popped Tylenol while on field trips with a gazillion sugar-torqued kids, and attended more than my fair share of scouting overnight lock-ins (lock-down is a more appropriate term).

So when I asked my children to accompany me to the symphony recently, I didn't think I was out of line.

Like you, I've heard the reports that link listening to classical music to a boost in brainpower. Some experts say that exposure to classical music and formal music education may help children perform better on standardized achievement tests. In fact, I recently read that prenatal music classes are offered in New York, Houston and Los Angeles, where mothers attach headphones to their stomachs so their unborn babies can brush up on Bach, Mozart and Stravinsky years before they enter a real classroom.

I'm not trying to create my own house full of Mozarts, but if listening to him helps my kids recall the names of state capitals — heck, if it will help me remember where I put my checkbook — then I'm willing to give it a try.

Since my kids are long past the in utero stage, I purchased season tickets to a series of concerts aimed at children (short-attention-span sessions that include a little fun — costumes, magic shows, a parade

of animals — with a lot of exposure to great compositions). Plus, my family was long overdue for a taste of culture. It wouldn't hurt us to turn off the Top 20 Country Music Countdown, put up the baseball cards and pay attention to our neglected intellect.

My first mistake, however, was using the word "intellect" to persuade my children, as was my telling them, "Classical music is good for you." Handing them a plate of liver would have garnered a more favorable response.

After rolling their eyes and giving me reasons they didn't think it was a good idea to spend a Sunday afternoon listening to old people's music, they looked to Dad to get them out of this snoozer. They knew he would side with them.

"He's going too," I said. Dad rolled his eyes, but before his excuses were voiced I had him by the hand and pushed the kids out the door.

There is no happy ending to this story. I'm sorry to say it was a "We're going to have fun, damn it!" type of event. My son asked at least 50 times when the program would end, and his sister thought we could have spent our afternoon more efficiently on important things such as shopping.

We had to wake Dad at the end of the program.

"The music relaxed me," he said. I'll have a hard time selling them on the next concert.

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Sopaipilla

From Page 2

to all the San Elizario Middle School students who are making this possible, including: Rogelio Hernandez, Mario Padilla, Lorenzo Campos, Nazario Romero, Salvador Romero, Jimmy Hernandez, Naylea Martinez, Jorge Munoz, Francisca Rivera, Lorenzo Rivera, Carla Mares, Elizabeth Medina, Victor Gonzalez, Andrea Gutierrez, Jesus Velasquez, Adrian Martel. Jesus Alberto Ruiz, from San Elizario High School, is also helping us with this project.

So, stay tuned for more news regarding this important resolution. I believe that it's time we start giving credit where credit is due. It's also time that we encourage our students to become involved in the legislative process. Get them ready for the future by providing them with the tools whereby they may learn about their state government, and how to impact legislation. Hasta la proxima, I remain,

Chente for la gente

Public Notice Lower Valley Water District

To our valued customers:

Starting April 1, 2003, the Lower Valley Water District (LVWD) will be your new provider for garbage collection services. The BLACK poly carts (trash carts) will be replaced with BLUE poly carts with the LVWD initials.

The 95-gallon, BLUE poly carts will be delivered during the month of March and the BLACK poly carts will also be picked up. If the BLACK cart is not returned you will be billed \$65.00.

Effective April 1, 2003, the trash trucks will not provide trash service if it is in a BLACK poly cart. The LVWD will notify you of your scheduled pickup day. There will be no change in the cost for trash collection.

If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Department at (915) 791-4480 or come by our office at 1557 FM Rd. 1110, Clint, Texas 79836.

WTCC: 03/20/03



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Really, folks, it doesn't get any worse than this

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Always remember that no matter how bad today is, tomorrow is always just around the corner. I hope UTEP coaches Gary Nord and Billy Gillispie remember that.

Now that the carnage that is over. The best way I can describe this UTEP sports season is like allowing a younger Mike Tyson back in the ring with Michael Spinks. Only this time the fight isn't over in 91 seconds — the referee allows it to go on for round after round after round. People can't bare to watch anymore of the horror as UTEP, ah, I mean Spinks, is beaten to within an inch of his faculties.

And then finally, mercifully, it's over. There is nothing but silence and some time to reflect.

The Miners' football and basketball teams combined for a record of 8-34. Think of that for a second, out of 42 games, UTEP raised its arms in victory just eight times. That's not even 20-percent.

Now that the season that never should have been, has been, it's time to think about tomorrow.

We've all heard of Nord's five-year plan, which enters year four in the fall. And it sounds like a good, thoughtful plan. But if Nord is

going to have a fifth year his team is going to have to win at least five games next year.

After winning just two games each of the past two seasons, five wins next year would definitely be an improvement and would guarantee Nord a fifth season with the orange and blue.

But can he do it? Nord has a lot of talented players back from last season who, quite frankly, looked better than his older starters when they got a chance to play at the end of the season.

And, of course, all eyes will be on potential starting quarterback Jordan Palmer. If he's 70-percent the quarterback his Heisman trophy-winning brother was, UTEP will be okay.

The UTEP basketball program will have a harder, and yet easier time of it next year.

Harder because Gillispie will be hard pressed to find any true impact players at this stage of the recruiting game, especially with other coaches around the nation warning high school athletes of that drunk in El Paso.

Easier because, let's face it, at 6-24 how much worse can you get? UTEP can actually double its win production next year and still finish 12-18.

The Miners have a couple of young players that should be stars by the time they reach their senior seasons. They are freshmen Giovanni St. Amant and John Tofi.

The only other player of any note coming back next season is senior-to-be Omar Duran.

Brazilian transfer Thomas Gehrke is still a big question mark.

Darius Mattear, Chris Craig and Alex Anthis were big disappointments and, if Gillispie is any kind of a recruiter at all, should spend a lot of time on the bench next year.

Roy Smallwood could get a medical redshirt and come back next season but let's be honest, Smallwood was almost non-existent out there before he got hurt.

When UTEP's two major revenue sports combined for a 12-31 record in 2001-02, no one thought things could possibly get worse. Do I think they could get even worse next year? No way, I say. It cannot get any worse.

Think about this, this can actually happen. Things have been so bad around here lately that both coaches, Nord and Gillispie, can finish .500 next year and both win WAC Coach of the Year honors.

My prediction for next season, football five wins, basketball 14 wins.

Still gotta believe

When I was young I had the privilege of watching the amazin' New York Mets of 1969 and the equally charming 1973 version of the same team.

And one of my favorite players on these miracle teams was relief pitcher Tug McGraw. Remember McGraw? He coined the phrase "you gotta believe."

I can still see him coming off the mound after recording the third out, pounding his thigh with his glove.

Then McGraw spent the last decade of his career with the Philadelphia Phillies, where he recorded the final out, a championship-clinching strike out, in the 1980 World Series.

McGraw has always been remembered as one of the good guys. One of the guys that always seemed to be in a good mood. A real-guy kind of a character in a league full of selfish don't-bother-me-kid superstars.

Early last week McGraw was busy as a consultant with the Phillies. Later in the week he was in the hospital, diagnosed with two brain tumors.

It turns out that the cancer is malignant.

None of us can live forever but at 58, McGraw is way too young and those memories I have of his antics on the mound are way too fresh.

Why can't more big leaguers play the game and look like they're actually having fun playing it?

Can Tug whip this tumor? ... You gotta believe!

Briefs

From Page 1

share in the festivities. For reservations call 852-4945 or 852-3372.

■ The 7th annual Dia De Los Niños/Dia de Los Libros (Day of the Children, Day of the Books) will be held on April 26 at Washington Park in El Paso. The all-day event celebrates youth and reading. Additional sponsors to read to the children and food booth providers are still sought. Call Daena for information, 542-0186.

■ The Iron Horses Motorcycle Club and Reach for a Star Foundation invite the public to the 4th Annual Poker Run and Charity Auction. The event will begin March 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Mulligan's, 10710 Gateway North, for any biker or car that wishes to participate. The final stop will be the Mis-

sion Valley Ballroom, at North Loop and Horizon Blvd., at 3 p.m. where live music, a rodeo, door prizes and children's entertainment will follow. A Candidates' Auction and a bike and car show judged by the candidates will be held. All events are free except for the poker run which is \$8. Proceeds go to the Reach for a Star program to assist a critically ill child. Information is at 474-1081 or 533-1208.

■ W.D. Surratt Elementary School in Clint will have Pre-kinder and Kinder Registration on Saturday April 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents will need to bring Social Security cards, birth certificate, proof of residence, proof of income, and immunization records. A shot clinic will be provided 9:00-1:00 during registration.

■ On March 6, the body of Cherilyn Marie Sutherby was found at the 12400 block of Mercantile Ave. in far east El Paso. Law enforcement officials say

Sutherby was murdered. She was know to frequent truck stops in the Horizon and I-10 area and to associate with truck drivers, officials said. Information leading to an arrest in this case is needed, and can be worth up to \$1,000 in a cash reward. Callers will remain anonymous when they call Crime Stoppers at 566-8477.

■ The Town of Horizon City will conduct a special City Council meeting on Friday, March 21 at 5 p.m. For additional information call 852-1046.

■ U.S. Representative Henry Bonilla has announced the annual Congressional Art Competition, conducted annually in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. Competition will be at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) on April 12, 2003. Student should submit their artwork to Congressman Bonilla's district office, no later than April 9, 2003. The winning work of art will be sent to Washington D.C. for display in a corridor

of the U.S. Capitol alongside winning artwork from across the country. Additionally, Southwest Airlines has contributed three round-trip airline tickets to be awarded to the winner and their family so that they may attend the National Exhibition at our nation's capitol. This year, the Savannah College of Art and Design will award a \$12,000 scholarship — \$3,000 per year — to any student accepted to the college with the winning entry from each congressional district. For more information contact René Ince at (210) 697-9055 or by email at rene.ince@mail.house.gov no later than April 4, 2003.

■ The Farm Service Agency is offering direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan program to farmers and ranchers temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. For information contact William H. McAnally at 915-336-9620, e-mail at bill.mcanally@tx.usda.gov or log on at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx>.

King Super Crossword

- PERFORMANCE REVIEW ACROSS**
- 1 Sarah _ Jewett
 - 5 Melville monomaniac
 - 9 Michelangelo subject
 - 14 Mecca men
 - 19 "The Seventh _" (56 film)
 - 20 Fount
 - 21 _ acid
 - 22 Craze
 - 23 WORK IS FIRST PRIORITY
 - 25 DELEGATES WELL
 - 27 Plant pest
 - 28 Pianist Lupu
 - 30 Anderson's "High _"
 - 31 "I told you so!"
 - 32 Alaskan port
 - 34 Wine valley
 - 38 "Blue -" ('63 hit)
 - 41 NEEDS LITTLE DIRECTION
 - 46 Opposite of aweather
 - 47 London lavatory
 - 48 Anglo-Saxon laborer
 - 49 Jabber away
 - 51 Catherine of "7th Heaven"
 - 55 Most fashionable
 - 58 Produces a cryptogram
 - 60 Islamic deity
 - 61 Swiss sharpshooter
 - 62 _ War (racehorse)
 - 63 Crossworder's need
 - 66 Tempest _ teapot
 - 67 Bull or boar
 - 69 Author Umberto
 - 71 " _ Nidre"
 - 72 Once again
 - 73 GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
 - 78 Oktoberfest offering
 - 80 Past
 - 81 Cologne cry
 - 82 Snaky swimmers
 - 83 Blunder
 - 84 Ritter or Houston
 - 87 Olympic hawk
 - 89 Kansas city
 - 92 Colorado or Connecticut
 - 94 Dickens character
 - 96 Dennis, for one
 - 98 Barnyard birds
 - 99 Burn a bit
 - 100 Actress Vima
 - 102 Advanced deg.
 - 103 Tolstoy's " _ Karenina"
 - 105 HAS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES
 - 109 Pull on a rope
 - 111 Tend the sauce
 - 112 Actress Perlman
 - 113 " _ the season ..."
 - 114 _ glance
 - 116 Singer Laine
 - 119 Fester or Sam
 - 123 CAREER-MINDED
 - 129 AGGRESSIVE
 - 131 Shakespearean sprite
 - 132 Surround a Seurat
 - 133 Mythical vessel
 - 134 Give off
 - 135 " _ Night in Georgia" ('70 hit)
 - 136 De Valera of Ireland
 - 137 Snack
 - 138 One of the Kennedys
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Dept. of Labor div.
 - 2 Harvest
 - 3 Old auto
 - 4 Weather factor
 - 5 Leatherworker's tool
 - 6 Legatee
 - 7 _ Romeo
 - 8 Ran in the wash
 - 9 Pop
 - 10 Latin I word
 - 11 Compete
 - 12 Part of MIT
 - 13 "Mellow Yellow" fellow
 - 14 Qty.
 - 15 Sound from the stands
 - 16 Aromatic plant
 - 17 French psychologist
 - 18 Wise guy?
 - 24 Fragrance
 - 26 Hurler Hershiser
 - 29 Sturm _ Drang
 - 33 Encounter
 - 35 Flying start?
 - 36 Inhibited one
 - 37 Ed of "JFK"
 - 39 "The Merry Widow" composer
 - 40 Conceal
 - 41 Out of sorts
 - 42 Zodiac animal
 - 43 A bit of Bach
 - 44 Draft status
 - 45 Cheesemaker's need
 - 50 Honshu metropolis
 - 52 Hold fast
 - 53 Lucci role
 - 54 Clarinetist Artie
 - 56 Playwright Rice
 - 57 Eastern European
 - 59 Actor James
 - 62 Highway sign
 - 64 Does some cobbling
 - 65 Actress Sommer
 - 68 Rachel's sister
 - 70 _ Locka, FL
 - 72 Williams of "Happy Days"
 - 73 Novocaine target
 - 74 Maestro Georg
 - 75 "Beat it!"
 - 76 Roller-coaster feeling
 - 77 Tennis pro Nastase
 - 78 "Wozzeck" composer
 - 79 "Clinton's Ditch"
 - 84 Senator Lott
 - 85 Some skirts
 - 86 Trepidation
 - 88 Runner Zatopek
 - 90 Composer Schifrin
 - 91 Bill of Rights grp.
 - 93 Son of Isaac
 - 95 He's abominable
 - 96 Ho Chi _
 - 97 "Kookie" Byrnes
 - 99 Southwestern capital
 - 101 Lamour's wardrobe
 - 104 Tidy
 - 106 Parenthesis shape
 - 107 Pas de _
 - 108 Poet Sidney
 - 109 Pageant prop
 - 110 Computer acronym
 - 113 It'll give you a lift
 - 115 " _ Ca-Dabra" ('74 song)
 - 117 Bank offering
 - 118 Spanish river
 - 120 Crooner Perry
 - 121 San _ Obispo, CA
 - 122 Ferrara first family
 - 124 Berry or Olin
 - 125 Crafty
 - 126 Impact sound
 - 127 First name in comedy
 - 128 Stimpy's pal
 - 130 Aah's partner

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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



Just call me Mr. Lucky

By Don Flood

I am the luckiest guy on earth. Not just because of my family, my home or my long-lasting deodorant that *really works* 24/7. (I hope.)

No, I am lucky because every time I go online, I win! It's incredible.

Just the other day I went online to keep up with some important celebrity news, when — here we go again! — up popped this big flashing message:

“CONGRATULATIONS! You are the 10,000,000th visitor to this Web site. Click here to close this window and contact our prize department.”

(The flashing colors were *very* dramatic, possibly even dangerous to pets, small children and reality dating-show contestants. To get the same effect with newsprint, hold your newspaper at arm's length and then rapidly move back and forth so the word “Congratulations” touches your nose. It is, however, best to wait until others have left the room.)

Now, I may never win the Nobel Peace Prize or an Academy Award or the Heisman Trophy — or at least not all three in the same year — but being the 10,000,000th visitor was pretty doggone exciting.

After a brief pause, I clicked to collect my prize and...nothing happened.

I'm afraid that while I sat there momentarily stunned by my good fortune — and that big flashing CONGRATULATIONS! — I may have missed my chance at who knows what fabulous prize.

Normally, this would have been a bitter pill to swallow but — you won't believe it — soon after I was at another Web site and at the top it said: WINNER!

And underneath: “Important. If

the link above is flashing, you have been selected as a winner.”

Was it flashing, you ask? Bingo, baby!

So I clicked and the prize was, well, a “\$1,000 travel shopping spree” that included tickets to Disney World and a requirement that I attend a “90-minute time-share sales presentation.”

I have to admit, it wasn't as fabulous as the prize I'm sure I would have received for being the 10,000,000th visitor.

In fact, I am going to say something here that may be seen as un-American and perhaps even a violation of the Patriot Act.

I don't like Disney World.

If you are an adult — of any age — and you are thinking of going to Disney World *without children*, you need help.

Those ads showing grandparents *by themselves* having the time of their lives at Disney World?

Dangerous.

Or the ones where a middle-aged man is waving shyly to a Disney character?

Pathetic.

How are we going to run this country if adults insist on conducting themselves like 4-year-olds?

You want to go on vacation? Act like a grown-up, like they did in the '50s. Go to a swanky resort, open a tab at the poolside bar and tell the bartender to “Keep 'em coming.”

That's how we won the Cold War.

Yes, I know, being anti-Disney World may be contrary to Homeland Security guidelines.

If they come looking for me, I'll be at home, where I plan to work full-time collecting my fabulous online prizes.

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

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 - 3R47AR413669, 1979 Olds Cutlass, brown, Chihuahua plates 639-SAX-4
VIN - MI95I8, flat trailer, black, plates 0031I9
VIN - F7F02Y2100667F, Ford Mustang, red, plates 84IHNF
VIN - IHED3640KA038672, 1989 Honda Civic DX, blue, Georgia plates 2753ABK
VIN - IMEBP92W5FH683204, 1985 Mercury Cougar, gray, Mexico plates I57-SKAI
WTCC-11/28/02

BARGAINS

COUNTOUR CHAIR with built-in massage in excel-

lent condition. Hardly used. From Craftmatic Countour of Texas. \$1,500. 852-3226. 3/13-3/20

2002 Honda Accord DX, A/C, 5-speed, 4-cylinder. 23,000 miles. Asking \$14,000. 505-546-4286.

FOR SALE: Bach trumpet, \$200. Call 852-4235. 3/6

HELP WANTED

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation NOW HIRING!

SEASONAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE
• Airport Recorder
• Trapper
• Ground Observer
• Mist-Blower Operator
Team environment, outdoor work. At least 18 years old. Must have valid driver's license and be insurable under foundation fleet insurance policy. No experience

necessary, ag. background helpful. For more information apply in person:
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• Pecos, 2206 Bickley Ave.
www.txbollweevil.org
Pre-employment drug testing required.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug-Free Workplace
WTCC-3/20/03

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Field Scout Tornillo District
www.txbollweevil.org

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is recruiting for Field Scouts in the El Paso area. Desirable qualifications: agriculture experience degree preferred, entomology experience preferred. Ability to relate to public, have field experience. Must be an insurable driver according to foundation fleet insurance policy.

Submit your application

to:
Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation
451 O.T. Smith Road
Tornillo, TX 79853
Pre-employment Drug Testing Required.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug-Free Workplace
WTCC-3/20/03

REAL ESTATE

Residential lot, cul-de-sac, 15311 Woodhill, Horizon City. Owner finance. 633-6684. 5/8/03

RENTALS

HOUSE FOR RENT: Two bedroom, off Alameda in Clint. Nicely remodeled. Quiet area. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152.

SELF-HELP OPPORTUNITIES

Alcoholics Anonymous Grupo 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

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1558 Oxbow,
Horizon City

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• Appliance installation
• Many other plumbing services
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail
wtcc@wtccourier.com

War

From Page 2

Hussein. Under the guise of beneficence, he will pay the entire expense for fairly lavish weddings for young Iraqi couples. The pay-back? The wedding becomes little more than a worship service of the dictator, whose larger-than-life picture stares with ghoulish satisfaction over the proceedings and, as required, his person and policies are praised by those officiating. He does not attend in person, of course. In spite of the joyous nature of such occasions, I could see little joy in the faces of the bride and groom.

They were probably wondering where they were going to get food to eat after the festivities died down and real life took over.

“Embedded” is the new buzz word that media is using to describe the status of their field operatives within the combat area. Reports and pictures they send out are eerily familiar — women, children and some men walking, walking, walking. Some have packs, some don't. They don't even know where they are going or if they will find the necessities of life when their journey ends.

They are just doing what refugees do during war. Getting out of town.

They and the rest of the world would be better off if their so-called leader had followed their good example.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I have worked all my life. So did my husband until he died about three years ago. I'll be 62 in 2004 and want to retire. Can I get my own Social Security and a widow's benefit at the same time?

A: No, you can't. But there's a twist to our normal rules that should work to your advantage. The normal rules say if you take a reduced benefit on one record, that reduction carries over to any other benefit you might be due. But the law gives widows and widowers a break. It says you can take a reduced benefit on one record and later switch to full benefits on

the other record. For example, you could get roughly 78 percent of your retirement benefit at 62, and when you turn 65 and 10 months, switch to full widow's benefits.

Q: My 3-year old son is autistic. My husband and I have been told that he may be eligible for disability benefits from Social Security. How would he qualify for benefits? My husband and I both work full time and pay Social Security taxes.

A: The only way your son would qualify for Social Security now is as a dependent on your or your

husband's Social Security record. In other words, one of you would have to be getting Social Security retirement or disability benefits before your son could be eligible. And then he would get benefits not because he's autistic, but because he's your dependent child. We run another program that does pay disability benefits to children. It's called Supplemental Security Income. It's a program for people with low income. So if your family is having a hard time making ends meet, your son might qualify for a monthly SSI payment. And if he gets SSI, he might also get Medicaid coverage.

Q: I have been on Social Security disability for many years. I turn 62

later this year. Will they switch me to retirement benefits?

A: We normally switch people from disability to retirement benefits when they reach "full retirement age." That's always been 65, but if you were born after 1937, it's a little older.

Q: My wife and I are both getting Social Security. I get more than she does. If I die first, does she have to sign up for widow's benefits? Or do you just automatically switch her over to a widow's rate?

A: It depends. If your wife is getting her own Social Security retirement benefit, then she will have to file a claim for widow's benefits on your

record when you die. As part of the process, she'll have to show us a marriage certificate and a death certificate. But if your wife is currently receiving benefits only on your record, then she does not need to file a claim for widow's benefits. However, she would have to notify us of your death. Once we obtain a death certificate, we'll just switch her from wife's benefits to the higher widow's rate.

For more information visit your local Security office, see 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
Continued cool with sun and clouds.	Partly cloudy.	Partly sunny.	Clouds and sun; perhaps a shower.	A good deal of sun.	Mostly sunny.	Partial sunshine.	Clouds and sun with a shower possible.
▲ 64°	▼ 42°	▲ 66° ▼ 40°	▲ 64° ▼ 38°	▲ 72° ▼ 44°	▲ 76° ▼ 46°	▲ 72° ▼ 42°	▲ 68° ▼ 36°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	7	High
Friday	8	High
Saturday	7	High
Sunday	8	High
Monday	8	High
Tuesday	8	High
Wednesday	7	High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	69°
Friday	57°
Saturday	54°
Sunday	63°
Monday	77°
Tuesday	65°
Wednesday	63°

AGRICULTURE

Mainly dry and cool weather will prevail across the area Thursday and Friday with 4-6 hours of sunshine both days. An upper-level trough digging into the southern Rockies could bring a shower to El Paso County Saturday. Drier and milder weather will return for Sunday and early next week.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2003

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	61	44
Canutillo	62	45
Clint	61	44
E. Montana	64	42
Fabens	61	44
Horizon	62	45
San Elizario	59	42
Socorro	62	42
Tornillo	61	44
Vinton	62	45

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur. Hi/Low/W	Fri. Hi/Low/W	Sat. Hi/Low/W	Sun. Hi/Low/W	Mon. Hi/Low/W
Albuquerque	55/36/pc	54/35/r	56/35/c	61/38/s	65/37/s
Atlanta	70/59/t	70/51/c	65/47/pc	65/45/pc	58/43/t
Atlantic City	52/36/c	58/46/t	58/38/c	52/32/s	55/35/pc
Austin/San Antonio	70/43/c	70/51/s	66/51/c	63/47/c	72/49/s
Baltimore	49/47/r	64/44/pc	58/36/c	56/34/pc	58/39/pc
Boston	46/38/c	52/42/r	50/36/c	48/32/pc	49/34/pc
Chicago	58/40/sh	52/32/c	48/30/pc	49/35/pc	47/36/c
Dallas/Ft. Worth	62/43/c	64/47/pc	62/45/c	60/45/c	69/46/s
Denver	36/28/pc	43/27/c	47/32/c	56/34/pc	57/33/c
Flagstaff	42/25/c	41/23/c	47/23/pc	51/24/s	54/23/s
Houston	76/48/pc	72/51/pc	70/55/pc	68/50/t	72/46/pc
Kansas City	52/32/t	48/32/c	54/36/pc	55/38/s	58/39/pc
Las Vegas	68/46/pc	70/48/pc	74/50/s	73/50/s	73/50/pc
Miami	87/74/pc	86/71/pc	84/70/pc	83/68/pc	84/65/pc
Minneapolis	42/32/r	40/28/sf	46/28/pc	52/34/pc	51/33/pc
New Orleans	80/55/pc	71/55/pc	70/52/s	68/54/r	70/41/pc
New York City	47/45/c	60/45/sh	52/38/c	51/39/s	52/40/pc
Philadelphia	50/46/c	62/44/sh	56/38/c	56/36/s	55/38/pc
Phoenix	72/52/pc	73/51/s	74/53/s	77/54/s	79/50/s
Portland	58/42/sh	56/44/c	58/44/r	57/39/sh	55/28/r
San Francisco	60/48/c	62/48/pc	64/50/pc	64/50/c	62/37/pc
Seattle	56/40/sh	54/42/c	56/42/r	53/37/r	52/29/r
Tucson	70/44/pc	70/45/pc	72/45/s	75/47/s	78/47/s
Washington, DC	51/46/c	68/48/t	58/42/c	56/36/s	59/43/pc

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



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