

NEWSBRIEFS

Water purchase

Based on a vote on April 10, the 9,300-acre site in Hudspeth and Culberson counties known as Diablo Farms will be purchased by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board for \$14 million. The deal as approved by the PSB includes that the property will be leased back to Diablo Farms for \$400,000 a year for 15 years. The PSB also owns land near Van Horn and Valentine and has an option to buy land at Dell City in the agricultural farming community of Dell Valley. Obtaining these properties are part of the PSB's plan to import water from rural communities to meet the needs of El Paso. El Paso developer Woody L. Hunt has also purchased about 5,000 acres of farmland with water rights in Dell Valley and in Otero County, N.M. with the expressed intent to provide water to El Paso County.

SHS tops in NJROTC

El Paso Mayor Joe Wardy was on hand May 9 at the Socorro High School Performing Arts Theatre for the JNROTC awards banquet. The Navy Chief of Education and Training gives awards each year to the top 30 percent or NJROTC organizations nationwide and SHS is ranked number two in Region 10, which encompasses Texas, new Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma. It is outranked in Texas only by Flour Bluff ISD, which is number one in the U.S. The SHS program has been ranked distinguished for 15 consecutive years.

In other news

■ An unidentified man died in a one-vehicle accident about four miles east of the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry on Monday while attempting to smuggle 499.5 pounds of marijuana into the U.S. Border Patrol agents responded to the sighting of a vehicle in a notorious smuggling area near there and subsequently encountered a 1999 Chevy Suburban on I-10, which made an abrupt U-turn and fled east at a high rate of speed. Radioing ahead for assistance from Hudspeth County, the agents followed, but soon saw a large dust cloud and found the Suburban had left the roadway in an apparent attempt to flee back to Mexico. It struck a concrete culvert and rolled over several times. The driver was ejected and pinned beneath the vehicle. Emergency personnel determined he was dead at the scene. Agents said they believe the narcotics were brought on horseback into the U.S. from Mexico and loaded into the vehicle. Agents recovered numerous bundles of marijuana in burlap sacks scattered around the crash site. It is estimated to have a value of \$339,600.

■ The Town of Horizon City invites the community to the swearing-in of newly

See BRIEFS, Page 5

A dollar will not go as far as it once did, but it will go much faster.

— Quips & Quotes

Democratic walk-out shuts down legislature

DPS seeks help from public in locating missing legislators

AUSTIN — As of Tuesday afternoon, the Texas Department of Public Safety is asking the public for assistance in locating 53 Texas Democratic legislators who have “disappeared.”

As a result of their absence, the work of the Texas legislature — which meets only 140 days out of two years — has effectively been halted.

Anyone who has information regarding the current whereabouts of the legislators listed below is asked to call 1-800-525-5555.

Legislators from El Paso County sought by law enforcement include:

- Paul C. Moreno of El Paso
- Joseph C. “Joe” Pickett of El Paso
- Inocente “Chente” Quintanilla of Tornillo

Under the Texas Constitution, the majority of members present in session in the House can vote to compel the presence of enough

members to make a quorum. The House did so this date and directed the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House and the DPS to locate the absent members and bring them back to Austin.

The whereabouts of Rep. Norma Chavez, also a Democrat from El Paso County, remains unknown but she was not listed among those sought by law enforcement. The sole Republican from El Paso County, Rep. Pat Haggerty was, as of Tuesday, in a lock-down of the state capitol ordered by House Speaker Tom Craddick after it became apparent the legislature was being subjected to an organized walk-out.

In a letter to Craddick dated May 13, Jim Dunnam, House Democratic Caucus Chairman, said the group had taken up location in

See MISSING, Page 6

Several county schools graduate high percentage of Texas scholars

As the class of 2003 gets ready to graduate, the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence recognized four local schools for having among the highest percentage of Texas Scholars in Region 19. The schools' achievements were honored at a reception Friday May 2, at UTEP's Hoover House.

Texas Scholars are students who have successfully completed the “Recommended Pro-

gram” or “Distinguished Program” of more challenging courses of study that prepare them to enter and succeed in higher education. Texas Scholars with financial need can qualify for the TEXAS Grant, which offers full-time students up to \$1,500 per year.

Socorro High School was among the four

See SCHOLARS, Page 4



SCHOLARS AMONG US — Top Row: Mel Olivas, Socorro High teacher; Ralph Farmer, Socorro High head counselor; Dr. Diana Natalicio, UTEP President; Paul Harrington, Socorro High Teacher of the Year; Oscar Troncoso, Socorro High Principal; Tony Baca, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services; Sam Hogue, Socorro High Asst. Principal; Dr. Robert Duron, SISD Superintendent; Gilbert Gallegos, Socorro High teacher; Alicia Parra, Deputy Director/El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence. Next Row: Graciela Ramirez, parent; Mary Melendez, teacher; Helen Lopez, parent; Rosa Guerrero, parent; Brenda Castaneda, SISD Board trustee. Third Row: Susan Ramirez, Socorro High student; Lori Lopez, Socorro High student; Ariana Guerrero, Socorro High student; Hilda Lopez, SISD Director of Counseling; Susana Navarro, Executive Director/El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence

San Elizario ISD volunteer awarded for over 1,200 hours service to school district

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — For the second year in a row, Dana Balentine received the Superintendent's Award as Volunteer of the Year in the San Elizario school district.

Working a schedule more like that of a salaried employee rather than a volunteer, she accumulated 1,206 hours of service. She comes to work daily at 6:45 a.m., she says, and leaves about 3 p.m.

Balentine was one of 45 VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) recognized for their service to the children in the SEISD.

The occasion was the seventh annual recognition banquet, held May 8 at the Mission Valley Ballroom in Socorro. The banquet honored not only VIPS but also businesses and

See VOLUNTEER, Page 4

\$101,236 goes to Clint for water project

Volunteers to provide project labor

AUSTIN — The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) announced it has awarded a \$101,236 Texas Community Development Program (TDCP) grant to the town of Clint in East El Paso County. The award will provide funding to help install facilities for fire hydrants and first-time water and sewer service to local households through TDCP's Texas Small Towns Environment Program (Texas STEP), a unique self-help program administered by ORCA.

Volunteers from Burbridge Acres, and Eubank 1 and Eubank 2 subdivisions in Clint will install approximately 5,636 linear feet of water main line, nine fire hydrants, connect 20 households to first-time water service and connect 14 households to an existing sewer main to provide first-time sewer service to them. The project will benefit 110 persons of whom 88 or 80 percent are of low-to moderate-income.

“I'm very grateful to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for awarding this grant to Clint,” said Senator Frank Madla. “These dollars are vital to small communities that are working to improve the living conditions of their citizens. The Texas Small Towns Environment Program is a wonderful initiative that helps communities like Clint help themselves.”

“Water is one of our most basic needs,” said State Rep. Chente Quintanilla, of El Paso's Dist. 75. “Yet, hundreds of low-income people in my district currently must do without this life-saving source. We're not afraid of hard work. And, if it means that people must put their energy into this self-help project, why, just stand back, and watch my people work.”

The program provides funding options for equipment, expertise, and technical assistance to rural communities experiencing water and wastewater problems. “Texas STEP is an innovative approach to solving the water and wastewater needs in rural Texas,” said Oralia Cardenas, Director of ORCA's TDCP. “Through this program, residents provide a certain percentage of the labor themselves. This self-help technique encourages small towns and counties to look within their own communities for resources to bring to the table.” ORCA Executive Director, Robert J. “Sam” Tessen, MS, noted that communities working with Texas STEP grants and this self-help approach have saved more than 50 percent on retail construction costs. “This saves cities and counties significant amounts of money and maximizes the number of citizens each project benefits,” he said. “Volunteers receive direction, technical expertise, and specialized equipment from ORCA and contract engineering crews.”

The program is a collaborative effort between ORCA, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Water Development Board, the General Land Office, and the Rensselaerville Institute of Rensselaerville, NY. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the funding source for this program.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

You can't fool Mother Nature

There was a commercial on TV more than a few years back where some lady, dressed in nature garb and pretending to be Mother Nature, got angry when she was fooled into thinking that an imitation butter was the real thing.

"It's not nice to fool Mother Nature," she proclaimed as she called down lightning on the scene.

Truth is, you really can't fool Mother Nature, the Great Outdoors, or whatever else you decide to call it.

I have to admit to a bit of morbid fascination when I heard the story about Aron Ralston, the hiker in Utah who amputated his own arm in order to save his life.

One hand pinned under an 800-pound boulder, the young man spent about five days in close communion with nature. Out of food and water, he summoned considerable inner fortitude and used his engineering expertise to break the bones in his arm so he could use his severely dulled pocketknife to finish the job.

Then he rappelled 60 feet down the mountainside and walked back to where he had left his vehicle. He was only a few miles from there when discovered by other hikers but rescuers said he would have "saved himself" if he hadn't met the others.

Ralston is the rare exception — the sort of extreme outdoors type who had the know-how to figure out what to do and then had the pure grit to carry it out. Most of us, I'm afraid, wouldn't have walked out of that canyon.

We live in a strange world where the line between truth and fantasy are blurred. It hasn't been so long ago that a mountain climber died of exposure on the frozen cliffs of Mt. Everest minutes after using his cell phone to say good-bye to his wife.

It is so frequent that rescuers are called to save us from ourselves that we have enough footage to fuel rescue shows forever more — documentation of our own lack of forethought and common sense that lands us in big trouble.

The popularity of "reality" shows in which people are filmed "surviving" supposedly natural surroundings seems a little ironic to me. After all, who does the public think is holding the camera? The filming crew, hovering ever near with helicopter and cruise boat at the ready, are not putting themselves in danger.

After all, you really can't fool Mother Nature.

I grew up pretty close to nature. When we left the house, our parents didn't say good-bye. Their standard parting was "Be careful and watch out for snakes." They raised five of us in a pretty rough environment and, amazingly, there were few severe injuries.

I remember watching my cousin's horse spook and buck over a cliff, going end over end. From where I watched in the canyon below, I couldn't tell if what I saw flapping from the horse's sides were stirrup leathers or my cousin's legs. Fortunately, he was thrown before the horse went over.

That was an incident that couldn't have been prevented by forethought, but we were drilled in common sense practices that kept us out of unnecessary danger in a dangerous environment. We didn't do stupid stuff just for the sake of doing it.

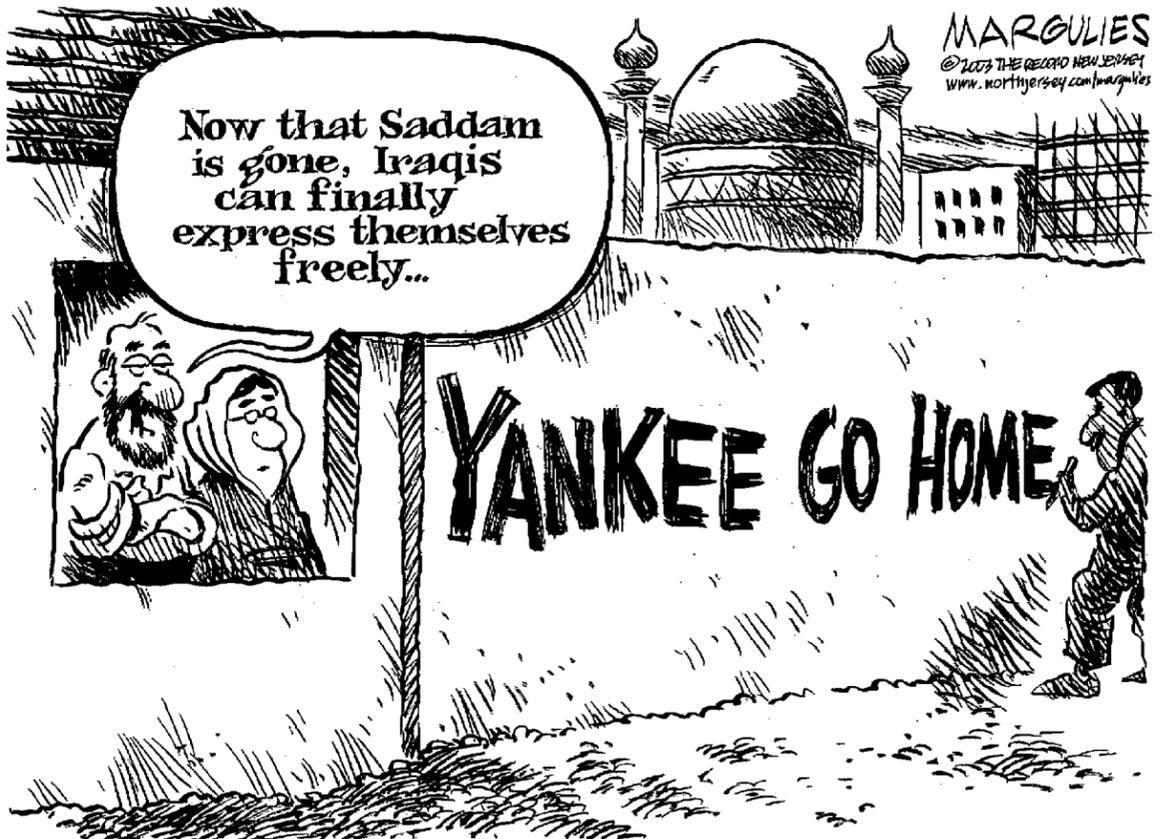
Our forefathers worked hard to improve the everyday life of the average American, so we wouldn't have to worry about the baby being carried off by a wolf or about Pa getting

See NATURE, Page 7

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW



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30 Years WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes



Changes in DoD policy could be bad

civilian personnel system could create harmful consequences for the civilians working at military installations in our community.

Such plans would adversely affect over 9,500 civilian federal employees at Fort Bliss, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Holloman Air Force Base, and White Sands Missile Range.

DoD's plan is part of its Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act of 2003 and is entitled the National Security Personnel System. Changes would affect DoD's civilian personnel pay and promotion scales, collective bargaining, downsizing, and a variety of other human resources areas.

The Transformation Act would give Secretary Rumsfeld and all future Defense Secretaries unilateral authority to develop personnel regulations without Congressional or Office of Personnel Management oversight that is now

required by law. It would allow the Department of Defense (DoD) plans to change its civilian personnel system could create harmful consequences for the civilians working at military installations in our community.

As a former civil servant, I have first-hand experience with these issues. I was hired by the U.S. Border Patrol in 1969 after serving my country in Vietnam. As one of only two Hispanics in my class, I quickly learned what a hostile working environment was. I can assure you that it took very hard work, luck and the protections afforded to us by both the Civil Service and the Border Patrol unions to succeed. Had it not been for those protections, there would not have been a 26-1/2 year career for me in the U.S. Border Patrol. I also would not have had the opportunity to serve as the first Hispanic Sector Chief. In that position, I cre-

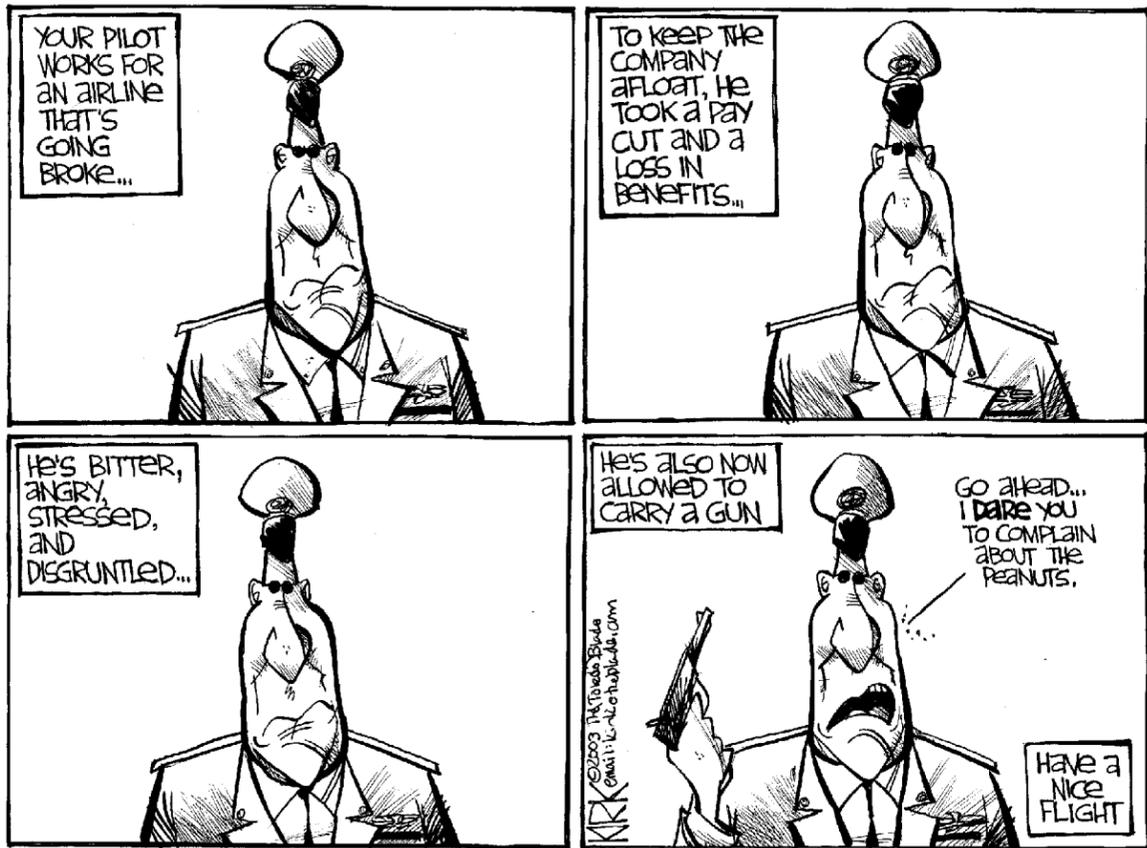
ated Hold the Line, one of the most effective programs the Border Patrol has employed to decrease the number of undocumented immigrants crossing the border. By creating Hold the Line, though, I went against my superiors' orders and would have been summarily fired without Civil Service and Border Patrol union protections.

During my 12 years as Sector Chief, I supervised about a thousand officers and employees. As a federal manager, I had to deal with problem employees from time to time, but I would rather deal with the occasional "problem" employee than risk a return to job discrimination and lack of opportunity. Federal managers are paid to manage. We should not give them unfettered discretion to eliminate employees.

Our federal employees need something better. They deserve a system that is fair and just. On behalf of the approximately 9,500 civilian federal employees of our community and the 700,000 civilian federal employees within the DoD, I will work to uphold the fair labor standards our civil servants more than deserve.



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MIRAGE



For Sanity's Sake

By Taprina Milburn

Spring cleaning

My daughter shared with me that for some people spring is for cleaning.

She insists these people are not those who arrange their spices in alphabetical order nor do they belong to a group of people who have a master list of the contents of their pantry.

"We should do it. Don't you think it would be fun?" she says to me in a way that actually makes cleaning the gunk from underneath the dryer sound like a trip to Disney World.

I look around my house. A few cobwebs — 10 to 15, they're barely noticeable — hang from the ceiling, and the globes on my kitchen lights could stand a rinsing. Might as well take a brush to those return air vents, and look at the baseboards — it's hard to tell what color they are for all the dust.

The cabinets could use some attention. I have shoved many things in them — things that do not have a home but hide nicely behind a closed door. I make a note to be careful when opening the cabinets in my living room.

Look at those den windows. I think we still have a back yard, but it's hard to see through the mess the birds have made this afternoon as they dive bombed. Oh look, someone's building a house behind us. Add window cleaner to supply list.

Moving on up to my bedroom — stacks of magazines I've read and dog-eared, articles I want to clip and send

to a friend about becoming a new mother. My friend's child is now 4. Perhaps I could weed through the magazines and throw out a few. I could stand to go through the basketful of books and my nightstand drawer, which holds everything and anything. A tooth, not sure to which child it belongs. Could be the dog's. Cough drops, Vicks, pencils, pens, paper, a wedding announcement. Did I send a gift? Hmm.

The more I look at the house through a spring cleaner's eyes, the more I see what needs to be done.

On to the kids' rooms — outgrown clothes and toys they no longer play with. Last year's schoolwork and projects, candy wrappers and mismatched socks. Don't we have a rule about taking candy into our rooms? Don't we have a rule about getting into Mom's private stash of Snickers?

And then there's the kitchen. I look behind the refrigerator. If the back of it is this bad, there's no telling what I'll find inside. Yuck. Just what I suspected.

Finally, I make it out to the garage, a place that screams "Please clean me." I'm having fantasies now of recruiting my husband for this project. It wouldn't take much more than an hour to organize paint cans, car parts and haul off trash.

Yes. Yes. Yes. I'm convinced and ready. Let's get started.

But when I look around for my helpers, my daughter's on to other things and the husband looks as if he will break out in hives if I hand him my list.

We've lived with dust and clutter for this long, why change with the season?

For some people (I'm convinced only people who alphabetize their spices and know exactly how many boxes of macaroni they have in their pantry), spring is for cleaning.

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TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore May 19, 1868: a storm in San Antonio hurls 2 lb. hailstones killing chickens, sheep, and even cattle.



Neighborhood crime watch.



Restrictions eased on bird movement

EL PASO COUNTY — Pet birds in El Paso County may now be moved, thanks to a relaxation of restrictions imposed in early April while inspectors from the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), New Mexico Livestock Board, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) worked to eradicate an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END), a deadly foreign poultry disease.

"In addition to El Paso County...we have also had state and federal quarantines on Texas' Hudspeth County, and Otero, Luna, and Dona Anna Counties in New Mexico," said Dr. Max Coats, deputy director for animal health programs at the TAHC. "In these four counties, where we have not had confirmed infected flocks, pet birds have been allowed to move within and between the quarantined counties. In El Paso County, on the other hand, we needed to shut down all movement of birds, until we could assess the possibility of additional infection."

Over 500 locations in the affected area have been tested with no END infections found. Birds may be moved if certain biosecurity and health conditions are met and requests are approved on a case-by-case basis. Coats emphasized that chickens, ducks, turkeys and game fowl in the five counties will remain under a movement ban until the quarantines are released.

For information, or to report sick birds, call TAHC at 1-800-550-8242, or in New Mexico, the Livestock Board at 505-841-6161.

Socorro ISD selects the top teachers in district during gala event

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro ISD picked its newest Teachers of the Year May 8 during a "Las Vegas"-themed banquet at the Airport Hilton Hotel.

Socorro High School social studies teacher Paul Harrington is the District's Secondary Teacher of the Year, while Sue Moriel of Escontrias Elementary School was selected as the Elementary Teacher of the Year. She teaches a bilingual third-grade class.

Harrington and Moriel were selected from six finalists, after each

of the District's 30 operating campuses nominated one of its own for the honor.

"I think I was born a teacher," Moriel says, "and I am very thrilled that my peers recognized that I am a good teacher, and that I do my best every day." She's been teaching for 15 years in Texas, Colorado and Louisiana. She says her students were also excited. "They said, 'YEAH!' when they found out."

Moriel and Harrington each received a plaque and a check for \$1,000 during the banquet, and will

now compete for Region 19 Teacher-of-The-Year honors Aug. 28.

Harrington is a 13-year veteran of classrooms in Socorro I.S.D. and the neighboring Ysleta schools. He says his junior and senior-level social studies students were "ecstatic" when they heard the news. "I told them, 'It's as much their award as it is mine. They should feel that it is an acknowledgement of their own accomplishments, and that makes me feel very satisfied — that they are receiving some recognition for all their hard work.'"

Tornillo Independent School District Notice of 2003 Summer Food Services Program

The Tornillo Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided free of charge to children 18 years of age and younger at the Tornillo I.S.D. Elementary School Cafeteria, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. The program will begin May 29, 2003 through June 27, 2003, with breakfast being served from 7:15 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. and lunch being served from 10:45 A.M. to 12:45 P.M., Mondays through Fridays. Transportation will be available by registering with the Campus Administration Offices. Daily menus for the Summer Food Service Program will be available on May 22, 2003. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo Da Aviso Programa de Servicios para Comida en el Verano para 2003

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Tornillo anuncia el patrocinio del programa de servicios para comida en el verano. Almuerzo y comida de mediodía se va servir en la cafetería de la escuela elemental del distrito de Tornillo, 19200 Cobb Street, Tornillo, Texas. Es gratis para todos los niños de 18 años y menores de edad. El programa de servicios para comida en el verano empieza el 29 de Mayo hasta el 27 de Junio, 2003, Lunes a Viernes. Almuerzo se servirá de 7:15 A.M. hasta las 8:15 A.M. y la comida se va a servir de las 10:45 A.M. hasta la 12:45 P.M. Va haber transportación si necesitan, pero tienen que alistarse en la oficina de la administración de la escolar de el distrito de Tornillo y proveer su domicilio. Los menús van estar listos el 22 de Mayo, 2003. Gente que califiquen para participar en el programa no deberan ser discriminadas por su raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, edad, incapacitación, religión, o creencia política. Cualquier persona que piense que lo han tratado mal injustamente puede escribir inmediatamente al: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, PO BOX 149030, Austin, Texas, 78714-9030 o Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250, Aviso: Quejas de discriminación basado a religión o creencia política deberan ser dirigidas unicamente a el Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

WTCC: 05/15/03



District spokesman, Phillip Cortez, congratulates Dana Balentine.

Volunteer

From Page 1

organizations that provide assistance to the district through its Partners in Education (PIE) program.

"You enhance our environment." "They make everything so much easier."

"How important you are in the life of kids."

"You are the person who has found the extra time."

"You are important in the gains we see in our students."

This is what administrators in the San Elizario school district said about contributions of time and talent made

by volunteers and Partners in Education throughout the school year.

"I enjoy it; I love it," Balentine said of her work with the district. "It is a big family, a special family. I enjoy helping teachers, kids... other volunteers."

Her output of more than 1,200 hours is approximately one-third higher this year than last year when she took top honors with 891 hours.

Ernesto Rodriguez, director of research and development for the district, said the banquet honored the volunteers who had worked a minimum of 300 hours for the school year. He said a total of 136 volunteers contributed 28,609 hours, an increase of 10,000 hours over last year.

At minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour, the time contributed by volunteers represents a savings of more than \$389,000 to the district.

The event also honored the 47 Partners in Education that the district enjoys.

Scholars

From Page 1

schools honored along with Burges High School, Del Valle High School and Canutillo High School. Socorro High Principal Oscar Troncoso sees the honor as a tribute to the hard work of counselors at his school. "Three years ago we had 36 percent of our students on the recommended or distinguished course of study," said Troncoso. "This year we expect to see 86 percent graduate on the recommended or distinguished plans. That not only gives them a head start in college, but access to scholarships and grants."

"Grade point average is no longer the only thing that colleges, universities and employers care about," said Socorro ISD Superintendent Dr. Robert Duron. "They are looking for students willing to take the road that demands discipline, focus and persistence. The recommended graduation plan requires the practice of these habits and values while the demanding curriculum provides well-rounded skills. This demand on a student's behavior and skill development produces a student equipped to succeed in all post-graduate endeavors."

Susana Navarro, executive director of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, said, "It is evident that teachers, counselors and administrators at these schools have worked hard to set high expectations and make quality teaching and learning the norm for all students across their campuses."

The El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence is a county-wide organization aimed at improving academic achievement among all students and preparing all students for college success.

Anthony ISD Offers Summer Food Program

The Anthony Independent School District, Anthony, Texas announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at the Anthony Elementary School Cafeteria from June 2, 2003 to August 1, 2003. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services, at the address above.

El Distrito de Anthony Ofrece Comida en el Verano

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Anthony, Anthony, Texas, anuncia que va ha ofrecer el Programa de Comida en el Verano. El desayuno y comida seran servidas en la Cafeteria de la Escuela Primaria de Anthony a partir del 2 de junio 2003 al 1 de agosto 2003. El desayuno se va a servir de 8:00 a.m. a 9:00 a.m. y comida de 11:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. Las personas que tienen derecho a participar en el programa no deben ser discriminadas por raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, incapacitación, religión ni creencia política. Cualquiera que crea que lo han discriminado debe escribir inmediatamente al: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030, ó la Secretaria de Agricultura, Washington, D.C. 20250. **NOTA: Las quejas de discriminación por religión o creencia política deben presentarse solamente ante el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Texas a la dirección antes mencionada.**

WTCC: 05/15/03

Briefs

From Page 1

lected council members on Friday, May 16, at the Town Hall at 14999 Darrington Road. Festivities are at 5 p.m.

■ Marine Corps Pvt. Jorge L. Guzman Jr., son of Elva P. Guzman of San Elizario and Jorge L. Guzman Sr. of El Paso, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

■ Marine Corps Sgt. Marcos Soto, a 1995 graduate of San Elizario High School, recently graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant's Course in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

■ Socorro ISD's newest high school campus, El Dorado, located at 2210 Sun Country, is hosting orientation on Wednesday this week, May 14, beginning at 8:30 a.m., for its first class of incoming freshmen. A "fun and festive" atmosphere will feature food, games, information on clubs, sports and organizations as well as an opportunity to meet teachers and administration. Call 937-2994 for information.

■ Congressman Silvestre Reyes was on hand on Monday, May 12 to open doors on a Lower Valley training and educational facility designed to certify students in computer literacy, medical insurance billing, BED/ESL, truck driving and shipping/receiving vocational skills. The Center for Employment Training (CET) is one of the country's largest training programs. The majority of students enrolling in CET are high school dropouts, limited or non-English speakers, low-income, 17 to 60 years of age, and displaced workers from factory lay-offs. The El Paso County facility has capacity for 300 students in both day and evening classes. The Upper Rio Grande@Work System provides the majority of the funding, on average \$5,000 per student per year. Students go to school five days a week, seven hours a day, until, at their own pace, they can achieve a competency level of a minimum of 70 percent on a given skill.

■ Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Adalberto Diaz, a 1999 graduate of Clint High School, recently returned from a six-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf while

assigned to the guided missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay. He participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom, as one of more than 8,000 Pacific Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard ships of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier battle group.

■ Navy Seaman Recruit David Ruiz, son of Gloria Alvarez and Isidro Ruiz of El Paso, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. He is a 2000 graduate of Socorro High School in Socorro.

■ Navy Hospitalman Jose L. Garcia Jr., son of Lori and Ruben Garcia of San Elizario, recently graduated from Basic Hospital Corps School at Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois. He is now qualified to work directly with patients and in first aid, assisting in minor surgery, pharmacy, lab analysis, patient transportation and food service inspection.

■ One of El Paso's oldest health care facilities, formerly known as Southwestern General Hospital, has a new name, Pan American Community Hospital, now under new local ownership and having been recipient of millions in renovations and upgrades over the past two years to its facilities, technology and staffing. The hospital was surveyed in August of last year and in November was granted a full three-year accreditation.



2003 Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships

Today - Saturday, May 14th - 17th

Today & Thursday

Decathlon - 10:00 AM

Heptathlon - 11:00 AM

FREE ADMISSION

Friday & Saturday

Field Events - 2:30 PM

Running Events - 5:00 PM

Meet will be held at Kidd Field on the UTEP Campus.

Adults: \$6.00

Youth, Students, & Senior Citizens: \$2.00

For Ticket information call: 747-5234



San Elizario Independent School District Public Notice

The San Elizario ISD announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided at the sites listed. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to: Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred *only* to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Dept. of Human Services.

Free lunch and breakfast is available to all kids age 18 and younger. No fee. No registration.

SITE: Alarcon Elementary School Cafeteria
12501 Socorro Road
San Elizario, TX

DATE: June 6 - July 17, 2003*
Monday - Friday

TIMES: Breakfast - 7:00 A.M. - 7:30 A.M.
Lunch - 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

SITE: Loya Elementary School Cafeteria
13705 Socorro Road
San Elizario, TX

DATE: June 6 - July 17, 2003*
Monday - Friday

TIMES: Breakfast - 7:00 A.M. - 7:30 A.M.
Lunch - 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

*NOTE: Meals will not be served on **July 4TH, 2003.**

WTCC: 05/15/03

Socorro Independent School District PUBLIC NOTICE / AVISO PUBLICO

Public Meeting to Review Federally Funded Programs Junta Pública para Examinar Programas de Fondos Federales

The Socorro Independent School District will conduct public information meetings to review the following SISD Programs funded by Federal and State compensatory funds: *El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro llevará a cabo juntas públicas para examinar los siguientes programas de SISD de fondos compensatorios federales y estatales:*

- Title I, Parts A and D - Professional Development and Neglected Delinquent Youth;
Título I, Partes A y D - Desarrollo Profesional y Juventud Delincuente y Desatendida
- Title II, Parts A and D - Supplemental Education Services;
Título II, Partes A y D - Servicios Educativos Suplementarios;
- Title III, Part A and Title IV, Part A - Safe and Drug Free Schools;
Título III, Parte A y Título IV, Parte A - Escuelas Libres de Drogas y Seguras;
- Title V - Innovative Programs.
Título V - Programas Innovadores

The meetings will be held:
Las juntas se llevarán a cabo:

Tuesday, May 20, 2003 <i>martes, 20 de mayo 2003</i>	Thursday, May 22, 2003 <i>jueves, 22 de mayo 2003</i>
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Lujan-Chavez Elementary Cafeteria	Escontrias Early Childhood Center Cafeteria

Public Review of the Federal Application for Educational Funding for Socorro ISD will be held on June 17, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Socorro High School Library, Room 2, 10150 Alameda Avenue.

Revisión Pública de la Solicitud Federal para Fondos Educativos para Socorro ISD se llevará a cabo el 17 de junio 2003 de las 9:00 a.m. a las 10:30 a.m. en la biblioteca de Socorro High School, Salón 2, 10150 Alameda Avenue.



"The way I figure it ... with the money we've saved by buying in bulk, we can now afford a warehouse to store it all."

Happy Miner basketball days are here again — we hope

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

How many of you are ready to make a run to the UTEP basketball ticket counter?

Not since the days that one could hear an angry Bear growling from the bench has El Paso so anticipated a Miners' basketball season.

After playing "how low can you go" the past two seasons, combining for a truly sad 16-46 record, the Miners' 2003-04 recruiting class now rivals many of the elite programs in the nation.

After landing whom many feel may be the best junior college point guard in the nation (Filiberto Rivera), the Miners went out and signed the JC's top scorer in Omar Thomas.

Thomas averaged 37 points a game and pulled down 17 rebounds per contest.

Watch out, WAC, you won't have the Miners to kick around any more.

UTEP coach Billy Gillispie now has something he was severely lacking last year...depth.

Don't forget the Miners have two stars in the making in returning sophomores Gio St. Amant (who broke Roy Smallwood's UTEP freshman scoring record) and John Tofi, a true banger and offensive force around the basket.

UTEP veteran Roy Smallwood, who must now battle for playing time, is returning after being granted his medical redshirt.

The Miners signed 6-foot-8, 235-pound Brent Murphy and 6-foot-5 Jason Williams two weeks ago. Both are JC transfers with three years of eligibility remaining.

UTEP also brings back streak-shooter Omar Duran, point guard Chris Craig, transfer Thomas Gehrke and leaper Darius Mattear.

Now I'm not about to predict any kind of worst-to-first scenarios but the Miners will definitely be better, more exciting and could finish in the upper part of the WAC next year.

Two years from now, some think, a championship could be in the works.

And don't forget the way Gillispie coaches. If he got last year's inferior

(6-game winning) team to hustle all over the court the way they did, imagine what he can do with a little talent.

Now imagine what he can do with a lot of talent.

Foot in mouth disease

I never thought it could happen.

People are now actually feeling sorry for Jason Kidd.

Everybody was angered by Jason Kidd a couple years ago when he hit his wife during a domestic dispute.

Heck, Boston Celtics fans greeted Kidd with chants of "wife beater" when they met the New Jersey Nets in the playoffs last year.

For those who don't remember, back on Jan. 18, 2001, Joumana Kidd, Jason's wife, called 911 in Phoenix and later told police that Kidd struck her in the face.

Kidd was arrested and charged with misdemeanor assault.

Get this — the whole incident started over a French fry. Kidd swiped a fry from his young son, T.J., and when Joumana got after her immature husband, according to the police re-

ports, he went berserk. After Kidd went all tough guy on his wife, he apologized to everyone, promising, "This will never happen again."

Word is that Kidd has gone as far as changing the music he listens to. Instead of gangsta rap, he now enjoys mellow R&B ballads.

Well, now, sports columnist Bob Ryan — in a monumentally stupid slip of the tongue, has been suspended by his employer, the Boston Globe, for stating that Kidd's wife Joumana should "be smacked."

Ryan called Kidd's wife an exhibitionist and claimed that the Kidds use their young son as a prop. But here's the kicker, now Nets players and coaches are calling for Ryan's dismissal. New Jersey coach Byron Scott said Ryan "should be out of a job."

Funny, I wonder how many Nets players and coaches called for Kidd's dismissal when he did more than just talk about smacking his wife around. And in an attempt to soak this up for his advantage, Kidd called Ryan's comments "unfortunate" and said his wife "felt sorry if she offended (Ryan) in any way."

Give me a break! What Ryan said was idiotic, but what Kidd did was reprehensible.

Jason Kidd is hardly in any position to chastise anyone who merely talks about hitting a woman. Words can hurt, but the act itself is the highest form of ignorance, cruelty and the ultimate evidence that one is a coward.

So cool off, Jason Kidd — besides, you got off much easier than Ryan will.

Missing

From Page 1

Oklahoma. He said the group is protesting the "partisan rancor of Washington politics" being used to force the issue of redistricting.

"As long as congressional redistricting remains a misplaced priority on the House agenda, we cannot trust that the rights of our constituents will be respected and protected," Dunnam said. "P.S. As you know, we are at the Holiday Inn in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Please stop having our loved ones in Texas followed and staked out by law enforcement."

His letter was accompanied by a statement entitled "A Declaration in Defense of Self-Determination," which concludes with the statement:

"We use the law of the land to break a quorum and stop this raw misuse of political power. Our aim is right. Our means are right. It is for this very reason that government has principles — the natural laws of the Declaration of Independence — and it has rules by which we govern, such as the rule of a quorum. Our founding fathers created the rule of a quorum as a prescription for the ill occasion in which we now find ourselves. Issued May 13, 2003

at Ardmore, Oklahoma."

Because the legislature meets for only 140 days every two years, the days lost by the walkout will likely endanger pending legislation.

The plot thickened further on Tuesday when Susan Weddington, chairman of the Republican party in Texas, petitioned the Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle to launch an investigation into whether the missing legislators were violating open meetings laws because, she said, "according to reports from the DPS, the majority of the House Democrat Caucus is currently together at a Holiday Inn in Ardmore, Oklahoma."

"Unfortunately, news reports indicate that the group has been discussing legislative matters," she wrote in her petition. Therefore, she said a quorum of several committees are conducting public business without sufficient public notice.

The tactics of the missing Democrats were supported by Democratic Senator Eliot Shapleigh who is quoted in the *El Paso Times* as saying they were attempting to "deflect the tyranny of the majority."

Others, however, compared their actions to those of a pouting child who leaves the playground in the middle of a game because he doesn't want to lose.



Month of May Special

All of May is Mother's Day with our...
Meal for Two

Two 10 oz. Ribeye Steaks • Choice of Potato Soup, Salad & Bread Bar • Fresh Fruit • Dessert

Open 24 hours — Full family menus plus spectacular buffet and salad bar. I-10 at Horizon Blvd., 790-4514. **Not Valid with any other coupon or offer.**

Only \$19⁹⁹



King Super Crossword

- DILEMMA ACROSS**
- 1 Lump
- 5 Showed sorrow
- 9 Anthony of "Boston Public"
- 14 Jambalaya ingredient
- 19 Hammett hound
- 20 Where to find an onager
- 21 Songwriter Greenwich
- 22 Spine-tingling
- 23 Fertile soil
- 24 Tumble
- 25 Java joints
- 26 _-garde
- 27 Start of a remark
- 31 Herriot title start
- 32 Vigoda or Saperstein
- 33 Slippery character?
- 34 Brit. fliers
- 37 Singer Manchester
- 41 Celt
- 44 Faucet
- 47 94 Across highlight
- 49 Pants part
- 50 "The Jungle Book" boy
- 52 Cask
- 54 Part 2 of remark
- 57 "Love _ the Ruins" (75 film)
- 58 Neon _
- 60 Cap or dolman
- 61 Bookstore section
- 62 Bog
- 63 Precambrian _
- 65 In honor of
- 66 Snick and _
- 68 _ above (somewhat superior)
- 69 Part 3 of remark
- 75 Baseball family name
- 76 Antitoxins
- 77 Mouth piece?
- 78 Long or Peeples
- 79 Solidarity leader
- 81 Forger's need
- 83 Cultural
- 88 Wear away
- 89 Carthaginian
- 90 Part 4 of remark
- 93 Comic Rickles
- 94 Bizet opera
- 96 Nasty
- 97 "How sweet _!"
- 98 Cpl.'s superior
- 100 Type of fuel
- 101 Porgy and bass
- 104 Fast flier
- 105 He gives a hoot
- 107 Cooke or Donaldson
- 108 Male swan
- 110 End of remark
- 121 Biblical city
- 122 "That's _" (54 tune)
- 123 Actress Thompson
- 124 Gymnast Korbut
- 125 "West Side Story" role
- 126 Porsche propeller
- 127 Tel _
- 128 Crucifix
- 129 Texas' state tree
- 130 Marvell marvels
- 131 Coty or Clair
- 132 Dweeb
- DOWN**
- 1 French Sudan, today
- 2 From
- 3 Command to Fido
- 4 Mead's milieu
- 5 Breakfast treat
- 6 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 7 Disagreeable sort
- 8 Hard to believe
- 9 Priam's wife
- 10 Cheer
- 11 _ Romeo
- 12 Mortgage, for one
- 13 Actor Amaz
- 14 Serenity
- 15 Disgust
- 16 Composer Khachaturian
- 17 Deep red
- 18 Volleyball divider
- 28 City on the Danube
- 29 Kind of kiln
- 30 Fenwick or Carter
- 34 Snitches
- 35 Inland sea
- 36 Prix _
- 38 Baton Rouge coll.
- 39 Cloth finish
- 40 _ Mateo, CA
- 41 Errs
- 42 It darkens your doorway
- 43 Bird-to-be
- 45 Join
- 46 Follow
- 48 "_ you for real?"
- 50 2001, to Tiberius
- 51 Skater Midori
- 53 Publisher Conde
- 55 At any time
- 56 Brewer or Wright
- 57 Orlon, for instance
- 59 Part of Q.E.D.
- 61 Tofu base
- 62 Occupation
- 64 Sail through
- 65 Cozy cloth
- 67 Tons of time
- 69 Mild cigars
- 70 Fermented tea
- 71 Deplored
- 72 Shock
- 73 Word with baby or snake
- 74 Inauguration Day event
- 75 Filled with wonder
- 80 Instant, for short
- 82 Coq au _
- 84 _ polloi
- 85 '87 Streisand film
- 86 Egyptian deity
- 87 "_ la vie"
- 89 Supportive of
- 90 Princess bruiser
- 91 Klutz
- 92 Plastic _ Band
- 95 Bill of Rights grp.
- 96 Interoffice communique
- 99 Honda competitor
- 101 Wimsey's creator
- 102 From C to shining C?
- 103 TV's "Scooby-_"
- 106 '81 John Lennon hit
- 107 Senator Thurmond
- 109 Borg of tennis
- 110 Actress Skye
- 111 Bank's backup org.
- 112 Clammy
- 113 "Typee" sequel
- 114 A bit of Beethoven
- 115 Weekend warriors: abbr.
- 116 Donated
- 117 Frigga's fellow
- 118 South African plant
- 119 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
- 120 Diane of "Chinatown"
- 121 Weaken

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Answer Page 3

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



Finally, men get their own channel

By Don Flood

As we advance into the 21st century, it's heartening to know that we are moving closer to the dream of equal rights for all, including men.

I'm not talking about in the workplace or in the halls of Congress but where it really counts: on TV.

For years, women have had their own TV network.

In fact, women have three channels: Lifetime, Oxygen and the Women's Entertainment Network.

I don't even know what's on Lifetime but, from flipping through the channels, I get the impression that — 24 hours a day — they're showing a movie where the basic plot might be best summed up as: Men Are Scum.

In fact, I don't think they even bother changing the movie, which stars Alan Alda as the sole male on Earth who is not total scum.

(Reportedly, Lifetime will occasionally air a second movie, which stars Alan Bates in the role of the only non-scum male on the planet. That constitutes their entire programming schedule.)

But now, finally, men are getting their own network and, no, women are not allowed to watch.

If they do watch, they should be forewarned that this new he-man channel will include many TV innovations, such as:

- News breaks where announcers belch and/or drink beer right on the air!
- Talk-show hosts who wear the same T-shirt day after day!
- And plenty more stuff women are not even allowed to know about!

The name of the network is: *Spike TV*.

Does that sound studly or what? I mean, when you come home and you're in the mood for some manly TV-watching, you know a

network named Spike will deliver. (It would be nice, though, if — for viewers — they could also arrange to deliver pizza.)

But I do have some concerns. According to CNN, the station will include segments about "fitness and relationships."

I don't want to sound disparaging, but isn't that the kind of thing they show on women's channels?

(Are women taking over this channel too? Is this all some kind of plot to brainwash men? And how come three channels aren't enough for women?)

Now I'm assuming that when they say "relationships" they're not talking about relationships involving human beings, because if that's the case we might as well watch Oxygen.

So it must be about a man's relationship with ... his stuff. His first car. Maybe his comb.

And fitness, where are they going with that?

Guys don't want to watch someone like that repulsive Mr. Abs Guy on TV.

We know we'll never have abs like that — especially since we're too busy sitting on the couch watching he-man TV and eating pizza.

As for fitness programming, Spike TV fans *would* go for something like "Pamela Anderson's Celebrity Showdown," a trampoline-based reality show where Miss Anderson would face equally, um, gifted, performers for a weekly bounce-off.

It would be like watching "Baywatch," only you wouldn't have to think.

Not that "Baywatch" would be a bad show for Spike TV.

A good men's channel should also include shows that appeal to the intellect.

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Classified Ads

LEGALS

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Invitation to Respond:

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

HVAC Upgrade for Americas High School
CSP NO. 199-0527-0371
MAY 27, 2003, 2 P.M.

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents beginning Tuesday, May 13, 2003 by contacting the Fluid Systems, Inc. office at:

Fluid Systems, Inc.
6821 Doniphan Drive
Canutillo, Texas 79835

Attn: Jose Bernal (915) 877-2148
Phone (915) 877-1947
Fax

A deposit of \$100 per set will be required for each set of drawings a contractor wishes to receive. If the plans and specifications are returned in good condition, the deposit will be refunded.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at the at Socorro ISD Construction Office, 201 Tanton Rd., El Paso, TX 79927, at which time bidders will be afforded the opportunity to survey existing conditions and to ask questions and discuss any aspect of this project. Each bidder is strongly encouraged to attend this conference.

Attention is drawn

to the fact that not less than minimum wage rates prescribed in the conditions of the contract must be paid on this project.

CSP will be received at the Socorro Independent School District Education Center, Business Services Department, 12300 Eastlake Drive, 79928 until the specified times. WTCC-5/15/03

BARGAINS

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

COMMUNITY EVENT

SKATE JAM — A four-hour session at 25% price! At Rollerking, 1579 Pellicano, May 26, 6 to 10 p.m. A \$10

value at only \$2.50. Sponsored by the Scorpion All-Star Cheerleaders. For information on this VIP Guest Pass call 852-4235 or 858-1769. 5/22

HELP WANTED

Town of Clint Deputy Clerk

The Town of Clint is accepting applications and resumes for a part-time position in the Municipal Court. Requires specialized knowledge of court operations and procedures, policies and does related work as required. Knowledge of word processing and basic computer literacy is required. Deadline is Friday, May 16.

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: High school gradu-

ation or possession of GED required, plus one (1) year of undergraduate courses in related field. A minimum of 1 year of comprehensive experience in Municipal Court procedures or Traffic Violations Bureau may be substituted for 1 year education. Considerable knowledge of personnel rules regulations, standards of conduct and work attendance.

Apply at Town of Clint, 200 N. San Elizario Rd., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 5/15/03

Attention Students! **SUMMER WORK** \$13.50 base-appt. Scholarships/ Internships Conditions exist, FT/PT flex Customer service/sales 779-1600

www.wokstudents.com 5/8-6/12

RENTALS

ONE BEDROOM HOME FOR RENT: Fenced yard, in Clint area, great place for couple/single. Call 598-1961 or 383-1152. 5/15/03

QUALITY OFFICE SPACE: 620 sq. ft. Available April 22. HCIA building, Ashford Drive, Horizon City. Call (915) 852-1811. 5/15/03

SELF-HELP

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

Alcoholicos Anónimos Grupo Paso Del Norte

sesiones lunes a sábado, a 8-9 de la tarde, 8501 Kingsway, Westway. 886-4948 para informacion.

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

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

SERVICES

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

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

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079
• Electric roter service for sewers and drains
• Appliance installation
• Many other plumbing services Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.

Nature

From Page 2

trampled in a stampede. Danger to them was very real, up close and personal, an everyday occurrence.

I've been told a story about a man of my grandfather's generation who was riding in the Salt Flats near the Guadalupe Mountains. His horse was killed in a fall, pinning him to the ground miles from anywhere in the hot sun. In an attempt to save himself, he tried to cut himself free from the horse with his knife. However, because he had no feeling in his leg, he inadvertently cut into his own flesh. By the time he freed himself, he was bleeding profusely. He began inching toward home and fortunately was found before he bled to death.

While I am glad we don't live that close to nature anymore, I can't help but believe that our young people would benefit from an opportunity to rub shoulders with reality under supervised circumstance. Maybe then we wouldn't have young people diving off the balcony of a five story building into a swimming pool "just to see if we could."

I admire Ralston's gumption but I hope next time he tells somebody where he's going or, better yet, takes someone else along.

Afterall, you can't fool Mother Nature.

Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: I have severe high blood pressure. Does that qualify as a disability for Social Security purposes?

A: The law says you will qualify for Social Security disability benefits if you have an impairment that is severe enough to keep you from working, and your disability is expected to last for at least 12 months or to result in death. It doesn't matter what the physical or mental impairment is as long as it meets that legal definition of disability. Many people with high blood pressure are able to work because they take medications that

keep the pressure in check. But if your condition is severe enough and can't be controlled, talk to your doctor about applying for disability benefits..

Q: I just applied for my Social Security and learned I will get only \$313 per month. I also get a \$3,000 monthly pension from the police department. I thought everyone got a minimum of \$500 per month. True?

A: No, it's not true. There is no minimum Social Security payment. Your

benefit is based on your earnings and the number of years you paid into Social Security. You probably were not paying into Social Security during all the years you worked as a police officer. That further reduces your Social Security pension.

Q: My husband is getting Social Security. If he goes into the nursing home, can I get and cash his Social Security checks? Or does the money have to be turned over to the nursing home?

A: If your husband is still able to handle his own financial affairs, we'll continue to send the check in his name. If he wants you to cash his

check for him, that would be his decision. You might want to consider direct deposit so you don't have the extra hassles of cashing his check. But if your husband is not able to make his own financial decisions, then we appoint someone to be his "representative payee." That probably would be you

Q: I'm 63 years old and thought that if I remarried I would lose my first husband's Social Security. But a friend just told me if I remarry after 60 that I can keep my first husband's Social Security. Am I right? Or is my friend right? Please answer quickly because I want to get married soon.

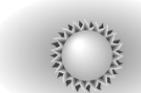
A: You can start sending out invitations because your friend is right. In fact, you may have a choice. If your next husband is also receiving or when he begins receiving Social Security benefits, you can take Social Security from your first husband or from your next husband, whoever has the higher rate.

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
 Windy and warm with sunshine and patchy clouds. ▲ 90°	 Clear and breezy. ▼ 60°	 Sunny and warm. ▲ 92° ▼ 62°	 Sunshine and hot. ▲ 95° ▼ 64°	 Mostly sunny and hot. ▲ 95° ▼ 66°	 A good deal of sun; warm in the afternoon. ▲ 92° ▼ 64°	 Partly sunny. ▲ 90° ▼ 60°	 Partial sunshine. ▲ 86° ▼ 56°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

Thursday	10	Very High
Friday	10	Very High
Saturday	10	Very High
Sunday	10	Very High
Monday	10	Very High
Tuesday	10	Very High
Wednesday	10	Very High

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	86°
Friday	81°
Saturday	84°
Sunday	84°
Monday	88°
Tuesday	90°
Wednesday	85°

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	91	63
Canutillo	92	64
Clint	92	63
E. Montana	90	60
Fabens	92	63
Horizon	92	64
San Elizario	88	61
Socorro	89	60
Tornillo	92	63
Vinton	92	64

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	79/53/pc	83/56/s	85/56/s	84/56/pc	85/59/s
Atlanta	75/62/c	80/64/c	80/62/t	77/59/c	77/50/pc
Atlantic City	64/50/pc	58/46/r	60/44/c	63/47/pc	69/46/s
Austin/San Antonio	92/72/pc	89/72/pc	91/70/pc	89/67/pc	90/69/pc
Baltimore	64/54/r	60/50/r	62/48/c	66/50/pc	74/48/pc
Boston	63/49/pc	54/45/c	56/47/c	64/49/pc	70/52/pc
Chicago	58/47/sh	64/49/pc	64/48/c	71/49/s	70/47/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	86/69/pc	86/69/pc	88/69/pc	88/69/pc	86/65/pc
Denver	58/42/sh	72/52/pc	78/50/pc	75/49/c	71/41/c
Flagstaff	71/36/pc	73/39/s	73/37/pc	72/36/pc	74/41/s
Houston	90/74/pc	90/76/pc	88/74/pc	88/74/pc	88/74/pc
Kansas City	72/56/pc	71/53/pc	70/56/c	73/57/c	75/48/c
Las Vegas	92/66/s	94/68/s	94/68/s	88/64/s	90/66/s
Miami	90/75/pc	88/76/pc	88/75/pc	88/75/pc	87/71/pc
Minneapolis	69/48/pc	71/48/s	73/50/pc	67/50/pc	70/47/pc
New Orleans	89/73/pc	89/74/pc	88/71/pc	89/71/s	87/62/c
New York City	66/52/pc	56/47/c	58/52/c	68/54/pc	74/54/s
Philadelphia	68/52/pc	60/49/r	60/47/c	66/50/pc	72/52/s
Phoenix	94/70/s	96/71/s	96/70/s	98/70/s	101/68/s
Portland	58/46/c	58/46/c	58/44/c	65/47/pc	69/47/s
San Francisco	66/50/c	66/52/c	64/50/pc	64/50/pc	70/55/s
Seattle	56/44/sh	56/42/c	58/44/c	61/46/pc	64/47/pc
Tucson	90/60/s	94/64/s	96/64/s	94/62/pc	98/64/s
Washington, DC	64/56/r	60/52/r	62/50/c	68/54/pc	76/52/pc

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

AGRICULTURE

There will be 10-12 hours of sunshine Thursday with a west to southwest wind at 15-30 mph with gusts past 30 mph. There can be areas of blowing dust. There will be at least 12 hours of sunshine Friday and Saturday with highs several degrees above normal. No significant rainfall is expected over the next week.

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



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