



NEWSBRIEFS

Election approved

The Horizon City Council last week gave final approval to call a bond election on May 15, 2004. The amount of the bond election is set for \$1.2 million, earmarked for roads and a new city hall.

SHS on 'short list'

Socorro High School will receive a prize of \$25,000 and designation as finalist on the short list for the 2004 "Inspiration" award from the College Board following an evaluation on Feb. 27. The campus was previously a semi-finalist among only 20 nationwide. The College Board is a non-profit membership organization of high schools, colleges and universities dedicated to preparing students for college in spite of economic and social challenges. SHS Principal Oscar Troncoso said the award was earned by "a lot of hardworking people. And we have great kids who continue to achieve despite their economic hardships."

Play ball 2

The Anthony Sports Association '04 Little League Baseball begins April 24, with an organizational meeting set from March 24 at the Anthony VFW Hall. For more information contact George Heredia at 474-1846. Divisions will be available for all age groups.

In other news

■ The Tornillo Independent School District celebrated its second successful District Science Fair last week. First place medalists are Luis Gonzalez, Maria Rodriguez, Zack Brooks, Lillian Camacho, Juan Cervantes, Yesinia Rangel, Jissel Reyes, Maria Hernandez, Gabriel Garcia, Lucero Ceballos and Isaac Cuevas. Sweepstakes winners are, first place, Yesenia Rangel, Zack Brooks, Lillian Camacho, and Juan Cervantes. The Regional Fair, held Feb. 28 in El Paso, had 399 students from all over El Paso participating. Yesenia Rangel and Luis Gonzalez received third place medals and qualified for the State Science Fair were to be held in Lubbock, Texas, from April 1-4. Eight Tornillo students also won fourth place medals at the Regional Fair.

■ PETS ALIVE El Paso has received a \$5,000 grant from the Moor/Moleen Foundations to support the operating costs of the Pet Care-A-Van, the bilingual mobile spay/neuter clinic of the El Paso City/County Health and Environmental Districts Animal Regulation and Disease Control, a multi-pronged approach to stemming the rising tide of destroying more than 26,000 animals a year because there aren't enough homes for them. The Pet Care-A-Van made its debut in the far east El Paso neighborhood of East Montana

See BRIEFS, Page 5

If a cluttered desk is the sign of a cluttered mind, just what does an empty desk mean?

— Quips & Quotes

HCPD officer, Garcia, honored by VFW for dangerous rescue

Courier Staff Reports

HORIZON CITY — Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10354 honored Horizon City Police Officer Ruben Garcia last week for saving a woman's life. The honor was presented during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on March 9.

The incident occurred on Dec. 1, 2003 at the 13300 block of Horizon Blvd. The accident was a head-on collision causing the woman to be stuck in her car which caught fire. Risking his own life, Officer Garcia pulled her out by freeing her trapped broken foot, knowing full well the dangers of a burning car.

"Her left leg was pinned between the metal floor and the dash board. The car was becoming engulfed in flames from the accident and



HERO — Officer Ruben Garcia pulled an accident victim from a burning car in December 2003. He was honored for his actions by VFW Post 10354 during a Horizon City council meeting.

the gasoline that had spilled. Officer Garcia and a deputy from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office had to literally break back the seat, use fire extinguishers to repel the flames and then pull several times on her leg to free it. If not for his quick thinking, actions and bravery this young woman may not have survived the ordeal," said HCPD Sgt. Ron Swenson.

Eliseo Sifuentes and Manny Navarrete, both VFW members presented Officer Garcia with certificates of appreciation for his "alertness, personal courage and ever efficient guardianship of life and property." They also presented him with a \$200

check to express their gratitude.

Officer Garcia was named "Officer of The

See GARCIA, Page 4

SBA brings assistance to East County businesses on April 2

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Small businesses in the East El Paso County area need help to grow and prosper and the U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking to bring that help to the very door of the communities of Socorro, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario, Horizon City, Tornillo and East Montana.

On Friday, April 2, the SBA will sponsor the Mission Trail Small Business Conference in Socorro as part of a course of action planned with the assistance of Mayor Charles Gonzalez of Clint, Mayor Irma Sanchez of Socorro and Mayor Diane Whitty of Horizon City — the three East County municipalities which are incorporated with a sitting city government. It was determined that a need exists to conduct outreach in these communities for the betterment of business and economic development, and that the conference should be presented in both English and Spanish.

The SBA is also offering outreach through

the County of El Paso and various organizations in the unincorporated communities of Fabens, East Montana, San Elizario and Tornillo.



HOSTS — Mayors Charles Gonzalez, left of Clint, and Irma Sanchez, right of Socorro.



The Mission Trail SBA Conference, presented free of charge, will be held in the Mission Valley Ballroom, 10600 North Loop, in Socorro from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The SBA business partners making presentations during the event include the Business Information Center of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center of the El Paso Community College, Service Corps of Retired Executives and the Women's Business Border Center of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In addition, local bankers, ACCION Texas, and the City County Revolving Loan Fund Representatives will have networking booths on site.

For reservations call the City of Socorro at (915) 858-2915.

Canutillo Elementary named to 'Just for the Kids High-Performing Schools' roster

Canutillo Elementary School recently received an Award for Academic Excellence for 2001-2003 in elementary writing from the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA). Canutillo ES was named to the "Just for the Kids High-Performing Schools" list because of the sustained high academic performance of its students in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Gwen Kale, assistant public affairs manager at State Farm, a cosponsor of the recognition awards program, congratulated Canutillo ES on their academic success and recognized their efforts to make a difference in public education in Texas. Dr. Jean Rutherford, director of educational initiatives at NCEA, praised the students' academic achievement and their track record of academic excellence.

Anthony ISD retains interim superintendent, says joining Canutillo 'just a rumor'

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

ANTHONY — The Anthony Independent School District has a new superintendent.

Vern Butler took over March 1 as interim superintendent following the resignation of Robert Ortega who took a position as associate superintendent for high schools in the El Paso Independent School District.



Vern Butler

Ortega returns to the EPISD, having been principal of Andress High School before taking over the reins at Anthony three years ago. The role of interim superintendent is not a new one for Butler who served in that capacity for 11 months in the Ysleta school district. He has also served as principal of both Hanks and Bel Aire High School in the Ysleta ISD.

Butler, 56, comes to Anthony from Region 19 Education Service Center where he worked as a part-time consultant.

The search for a new superintendent will officially begin, Butler says, when the school board meets on March 23.

Butler, who has 32 years experience in the education field, says he has already met with the board to affirm what is in the best interests of the students. "To give them the best we can — that's the focus. That's exciting to see. It's their (school board's) main goal."

Butler sees himself working to bring stability to the school board and the district after Ortega's departure. He is carrying this out in three areas.

- To work with the school board in the selection of a new superintendent;
- To work with the district staff in preparing a budget and calendar for the upcoming school year;
- To provide leadership for and answer questions of principals and teachers. "People have questions; they have concerns; I am a sounding board."

He downplays his own role, saying he is a firm believer in site-based decision making at the school level. "I am here to assist them — to give direction and not to dictate or mandate change."

Asked about rumors circulating of consolidation with the neighboring Canutillo school district, Butler says, "it was not imminent." Instead, he emphasizes "moving forward" with the Anthony school district. He likes the "openness and friendliness of the teachers and administrators. The kids have been wonderful."

Rick Villarreal, president of the Anthony ISD school board, says it was "just a rumor. The board hasn't discussed (possible) consolidation with Canutillo." He adds, "the future looks real bright for the Anthony

See ANTHONY, Page 3



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

My car smells like a skunk

I held my ears and stamped my feet like a kindergartner. "I can't hear you! I can't hear you," I shouted into the night.

But it was not use. No one was hearing me, that's for sure. They just kept right on talking about what it meant, was it really an accident or was it planned, what was the deep social significance of it, what was this saying about the decline of our national morals or did it simply have no meaning at all?

We are talking, of course, about the Superbowl half-time show.

The ocean of voices went on and on, droning from my television screen, leaping at me from the printed page of my newspaper, blaring at me from the covers of the tabloids in the supermarket.

There was no escape. They went on and on for weeks — still are, in fact, and still I cried, "I don't care! I'm not listening! I refuse to participate in this useless and demeaning dialogue!"

Until finally it happened. Out of the chaos of confused posturing and senseless harangue came a voice of sanity. It rose like a clear and ringing bell, separating the swirling fog of agonizing debate that had gathered in the low places of our national discussions and it shone as bright as the morning sun.

I've never seen the man so I don't know what he looks like. I do know that he is old, which is to be expected. Nobody young would have the guts to say what he did.

U.S. Sen. Zell Miller, a Southern fellow, stepped to the lectern of our nation's considerable power and finally spoke the words I had been yearning to hear. He said:

"I asked the question yesterday, 'How many of you have ever run over a skunk with your car?' I have many times and I can tell you, the stink stays around for a long time. You can take the car through a car

wash and it's still there. So the scent of this event will long linger in the nostrils of America.

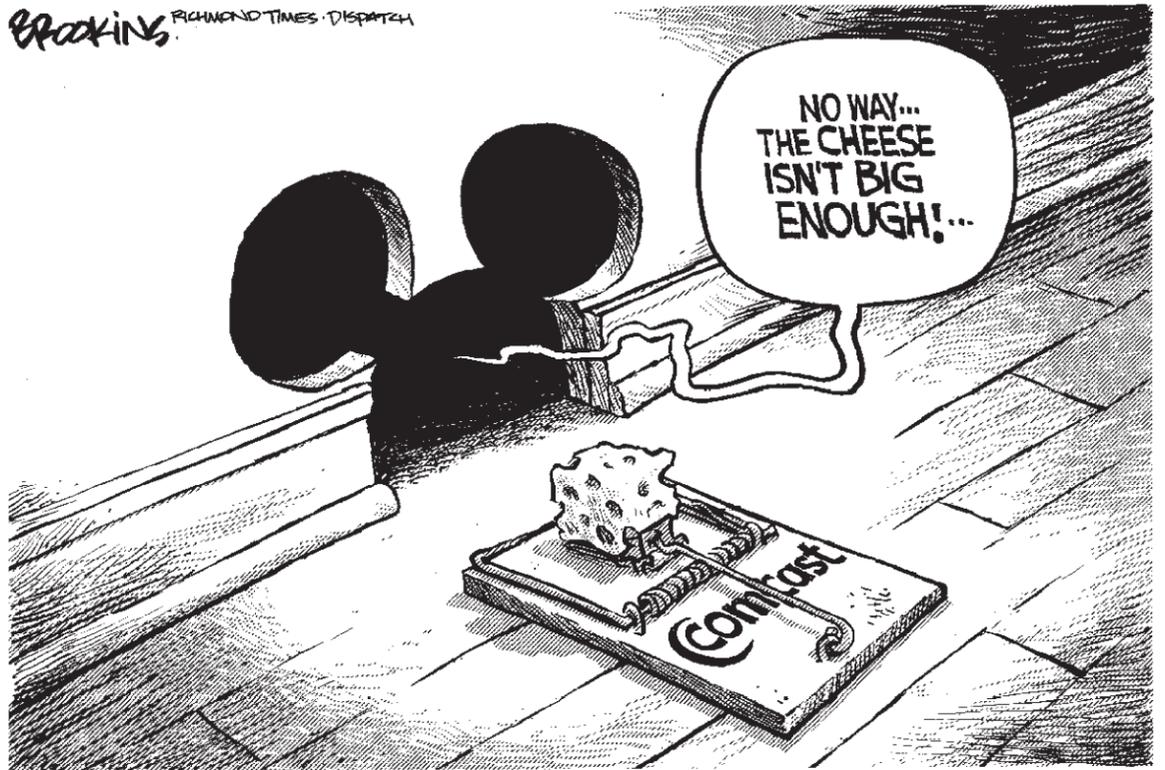
"I'm not talking just about an exposed mammary gland with a pull-tab attached to it. Really no one should have been too surprised at that. Wouldn't one expect a bumping, humping, trashy routine entitled 'I'm going to get you naked' to end that way?"

"Does any responsible adult ever listen to the words of this rap-crap? I'd quote you some of it, but the Sergeant of Arms would throw me out of here, as well he should. And then there was that prancing, dancing, strutting, rutting guy evidently suffering from jock itch because he kept yelling and grabbing his crotch. But then, maybe there's a crotch grabbing culture I'm unaware of.

"But as bad as all this was, the thing that yanked my chain the hardest was seeing that ignoramus with his pointed head stuck up through a hole he had cut in the flag of the United States of America, screaming about having 'a bottle of scotch and watching lots of crotch.' Think about that! This is the same flag that we pledge allegiance to. This is the flag that is draped over coffins of dead young uniformed warriors killed while protecting 'Kid Crock's' bony butt. He should be tarred and feathered, and ridden out of this country on a rail! Talk about a good reality show, there's one for you!" Sen. Miller said.

Now, he said lots of other things, about the creeping disease of immorality and behavioral arrogance that is rotting the very soul of this good land. For lack of space I can't repeat it all.

But he said, out loud and in public, from the second-highest pulpit in America, what my reeling mind has been shouting unheard inside head — why on earth is anybody shocked by a partially exposed body part after millions of us have already watched, even cheered, as a couple of pitiful little



people, dressed with the greatest lack of good fashion, do everything but actually engage in the act of reproduction on the stage? After the images these folks left dancing around in the old cranium, who cares if a couple of square inches of skin were exposed? The deed was done, the barn door left open and the horse long gone by then.

In closing, the good Senator nailed his address with the following: "If I am asked why, with all the pressing problems this nation faces today, why am I pushing these social issues and taking the Senate's valuable time? I will answer: Because, it is of the highest importance. Yes, there's a deficit to be concerned about in this country,

a deficit of decency," he said. This speech was forwarded to me by a good friend who must have known the agony I was going through trying to keep both my ears and my mouth closed. He let me know that I was not alone. Excuse me, now I've got to go see if I can wash off some of this stink.

WEST TEXAS COUNTY COURIER

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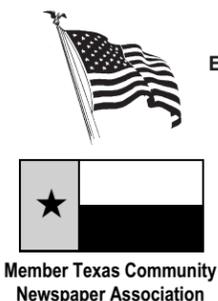
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ADDRESS:
15344 Werling Court
Horizon City, TX 79928

Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtccc@wtccourier.com
Website: wtccourier.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum
Business Manager
Francis D. Shrum
Contributors
Don Woodyard
Steve Escajeda
Arleen Beard

Homesteader
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Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Proposed changes to HUD low-income housing program not beneficial

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has many programs that offer assistance to those seeking affordable housing. Housing is just too expensive for many families right now and HUD's Section 8 Low Income Rental Assistance Housing Program is a proven success at helping low-income families avoid homelessness. In El Paso, the Section 8 Program is in extreme demand and the El Paso Housing Authority's waiting list continues to grow. In Congress, I have always fought for the Section 8 Program and will continue to do so this year.

Nationally, about two million low-income households, most of them poor working families, elderly people, or people with disabilities, utilize HUD's Section 8 Program. Section 8 voucher recipients select housing with rent at or below the "fair

market rent" set by HUD. The family pays 30 percent of its income toward rent and utilities, and a subsidy paid to the landlord covers the rest. The Section 8 Program also offers qualified participants a "homeownership option" to help families move from renting their home to owning it. Earlier this year, the Bush Administration submitted its fiscal year 2005 budget request to Congress. In this request, the Administration proposed cutting funding for Section 8 funding by more than \$1 billion and drastically overhauling the Section 8 Program's basic framework. The Administration wants to turn this market-based housing assistance program into a block grant program.

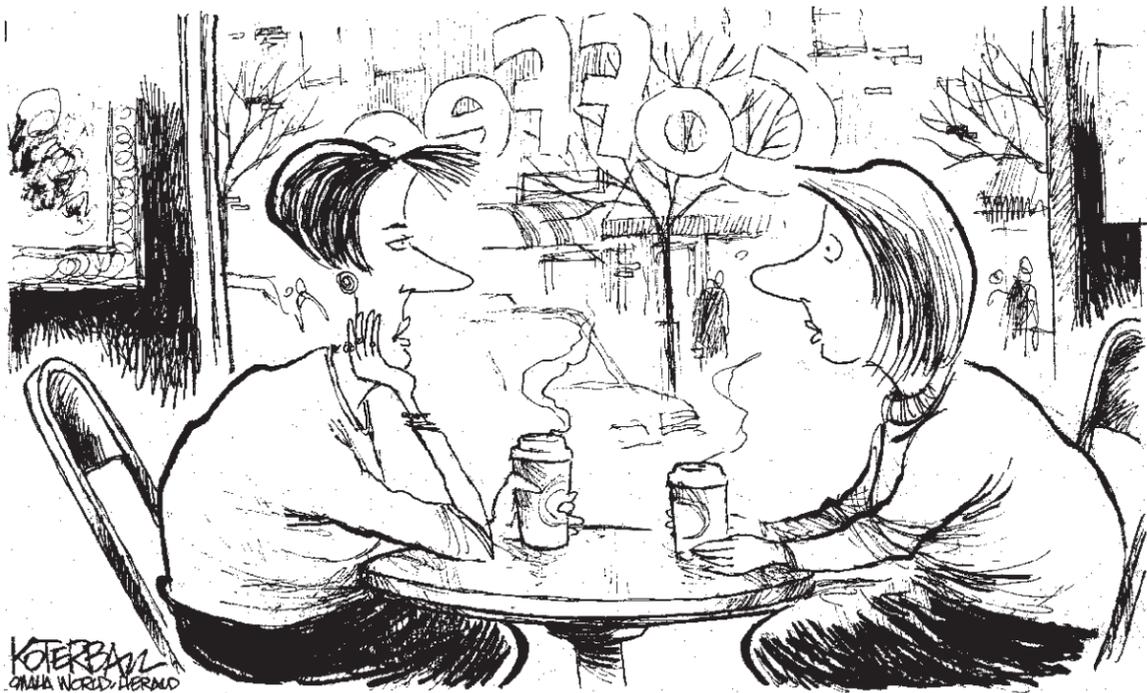
This proposal, called the "Flexible Voucher Program," would provide set-dollar block grants to local housing agencies and would give housing agencies greater freedom in distributing the funds. However, accord-

ing to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, funding will change from being unit-based to being dollar-based, meaning it will no longer be determined by the cost of housing. The proposed block grants could cap costs regardless of increases in housing costs. This means that over time, public housing authorities will have no choice but to cut back on housing assistance.

The President's proposal still needs congressional approval and we are currently working on our fiscal year 2005 budget resolution in the House of Representatives. This program is extremely important to El Paso, and as we debate funding for HUD and the Section 8 Program, I can assure you I will fight to provide the best funding and framework possible for El Paso. Affordable housing opportunities are essential for communities both in El Paso and across the country and every family needs and deserves a safe place to call home.



"HE CAME OUT HERE to MARCH in PROTEST of the PROPOSED SMOKING BAN, but HE CAN'T WALK THREE FEET WITHOUT RUNNING OUT of BREATH...."



"WHAT REALLY GETS ME IS THAT OPPOSITE-SEX MARRIAGES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LEGAL AND, STILL, STAN WON'T PROPOSE."

View from here By Richard Vedder and Joshua Hall

Return to first principles : State should focus on core curriculum

Texas is embroiled in a debate about schools; the education of children and the financing of public education. Many people are focused solely on the question of changing the amounts and forms of taxation, implicitly assuming the basic method of delivering services is essentially a good one.

This is an assumption that poses considerable risk for Texans concerned with academic achievement.

The most solemn responsibility of each generation is to pass on the accumulated wisdom, truth and beauty of past generations to the youth who will lead the state and nation in future years. The younger generation must be "taught" those things that make up what we broadly term "civilization."

Moreover, if civilization is to grow and progress, we must expand the frontiers of knowledge and artistic accomplishments by forming new "cultural capital" through research and creative endeavors. For scores of generations, since the beginning of recorded history, the process of replacing and creating cultural capital has continued. The current debate in Texas is merely a continuation of a discussion that has raged for literally thousands of years.

In the 19th century, many communities established government schools largely funded by local property taxes. These schools offered instruction to further the cultural heritage. The common core of knowledge, it is argued, helps bind us together as a people.

At the same time, education provided the general population with the tools necessary to perform the tasks of basic citizenship and employment. Thus is the rationale for requiring that students learn to read, spell, write, and know the rudiments of English grammar, while possessing basic mathematical skills; both are critical to functioning in society and the marketplace.

With the passage of time, additional forms of knowledge were deemed sufficiently important for meeting minimal goals of citizenship and binding us together as a people, such as history, political science and a rudimentary understanding of the natural sciences.

For instruction of the core curriculum — the knowledge and skills people commonly agree are imperative for high school graduates to acquire — it would seem government has a reasonable obligation to guarantee access to all students. And it

seems reasonable funding for this instruction should be guaranteed by the state.

After all, educated people are more likely to be involved in their communities and to vote; increased education is associated with reductions in crime and less reliance on government-subsidized services.

Besides the core curriculum, there are other subjects of value, but that are not necessarily universally vital. The nature and extent of that training (such as the study of French, or the operation of a drill press) is beyond the core curriculum, and will vary by individual academic interests and strengths, vocational considerations, and costs.

That Texas has a moral and constitutional obligation to provide access to the core curriculum at no charge to the student is well recognized, but the same would seem to be less true of secondary subjects.

While the core curriculum helps prepare individuals to cope with the obligations of citizenship and basic employment, the secondary curriculum gives students the tools needed to improve their economic lot and to obtain higher paying jobs.

As the benefits of additional training accrue to the individual student,

Texas Mountain Trail designation to be discussed in April meeting in Socorro

WEST TEXAS — The Texas Heritage Trail Program of the Texas Historical Commission will be the focus of a meeting of the El Paso County Historical Commission on Tuesday, April 6, 1-4 p.m. in Socorro at the city's Planning Department Offices, 860 N. Rio Vista Rd.

The meeting will review and discuss the Texas Heritage Trails Program, a regional tourism initiative of the Texas Historical Commission, offering the public an opportunity to learn more about the program and to demonstrate regional support for the submission of an application to designate the Mountain Trail as the next Texas Heritage Trail. The Mountain Trail covers the far West Texas coun-

ties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio.

The Texas Heritage Trails Program is a community-based endeavor designed to assist local governments and organizations in the preservation, enhancement and marketing of natural, historic and cultural resources, sites and attractions within ten existing trail regions designated in 1968 by the Texas Department of Transportation through highway signage and promotional literature.

For more information call Gary Williams, Program Officer of the El Paso Community Foundation, at (915) 533-4020.

— Contributed by Michelle Brown

Anthony

From Page 1

school district. It is an excellent school district."

Villarreal praises Butler. "We would like to get him for the long-term."

Ortega says his taking the position with EPISD was a career move that

gives him the opportunity to learn under Superintendent Charles Tafoya. "It is a new opportunity to work at the high school level."

Ortega says he "really enjoyed" his three years in Anthony. "I was lucky to work with such wonderful people. I really appreciate the opportunity they gave me. It was a good learning experience."

TRUE TEXAS FACTS by Roger T. Moore, March 18, 1848,, T.J.

Trimmier begins a cattle drive from Texas to California. He got \$100 per head.



it makes sense in many cases for those students to incur at least a part of the cost of this "investment." The notion of doing so at the university level has been accepted for many years, and perhaps should be extended to lower grades.

At the same time, it is important to ensure family income does not serve as a barrier to good education. One goal of publicly funded education is to provide opportunities for the disadvantaged members of society to achieve economic advancement. College graduates, for example, on average earn more than double the wages of those with less than a high school education; it does make sense to subsidize the education of poor children to help them to climb the economic ladder.

It makes far less sense for low-income taxpayers to subsidize the non-core curriculum of students from highly wealthy backgrounds. More to

the point: Texans, regardless of wealth, should be taxed only to provide instruction in the core curriculum of knowledge.

Texas would do well to return to the first principles of public education. State expenditures should assure universal access to the core curriculum, encouraging families and local communities to pay for "extras," while assisting economically disadvantaged students in their educational pursuits.

Richard Vedder, Ph.D., is a distinguished professor of economics at Ohio University and senior fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Joshua Hall is director of research for the Buckeye Institute. They recently co-authored a comprehensive study for the Texas Public Policy Foundation titled "Effective, Efficient, Fair: Paying for Public Education in Texas."

El Paso Academy targets students who fall through cracks in public school system

EL PASO — Frustrated by crowded classrooms, overworked teachers and a system that treats students as walking test scores, Ramon Meza feared he'd never get his high school diploma. Living on his own for four years and lacking the stable foundation conducive to finishing high school, he struggled to work and pay bills until he recognized an education was his key out of the cycle of low-paying jobs with no future.

His roommate recommended El Paso Academy, a tuition-free public charter high school aimed at students who drop-out or otherwise fail to thrive in traditional high schools.

"I attended Austin and Burges but, by my senior year, I was tired of the same drill — trying to get help from teachers who were inundated in an environment that doesn't recognize the needs of individuals," explained the 18-year-old who graduated last month in about three weeks by taking two classes for four hours a day, five days a week. He lacked only credits in Algebra II and computers to earn his high school diploma in accordance with the graduation requirements of the state of Texas.

Striving to provide the time, talent, resources and room to individualize every child's high school experience, El Paso Academy is a two-campus, non-sectarian, fully accredited school adhering to the Texas Education Agency's requirements for graduation. The 525-student school provides self-paced programs with students receiving up to 60 hours of contact time with instructors in six-week runs. Two credits or more are achieved within six weeks, but advanced students and those working toward early graduation, motivated students like Ramon Meza, can meet it in as little as two or three weeks. Classes structured within three tracks

— morning, mid-day and afternoon — help students who work maintain a flexible schedule.

"I was able to focus on studying and accomplish what was needed to get my diploma," said Meza, who recommended the Academy to two friends who are now attending and working toward their diplomas. "The teachers were wonderfully patient and supportive. They helped me with the personalized attention I needed to learn and for the first time, I passed with As. I never felt embarrassed or stupid, especially in Algebra. They kept it interesting but still expected results, and I performed beyond my own expectations."

"So many kids do fall through the cracks, but Ramon Meza is a perfect example of the student profile we encounter everyday," said Katherine Reid, superintendent and founder of the Academy. "Our programs attract students who have dropped out for personal or work-related reasons as well as the advanced, honor students who take advantage of our gifted and talented program and are committed to college. With this curriculum, we can accommodate their drive to continue their education."

With two sisters and one brother, Meza moved out of his parents' home at 14, living intermittently for the next four years with friends, relatives

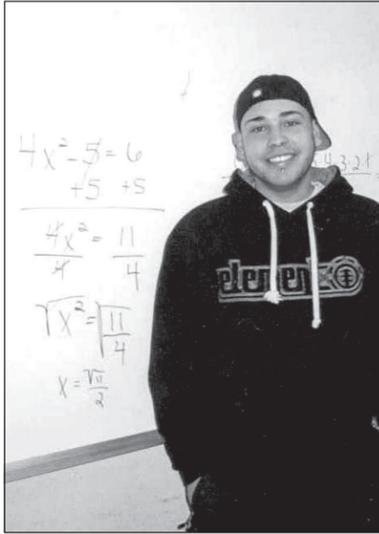
and roommates while working in restaurants, retail, telemarketing and an automotive center. His parents are now divorced.

"When I had my own apartment, I struggled to earn enough to pay utilities and rent while trying to attend school," recalled Meza. "I realized that I had to get a diploma, not just a GED, to position myself for a sustaining career. But I didn't want to spend five months back in the system that drove me out in the first place."

His answer was El Paso Academy. Since graduation, he has renewed his relationship with his father and has joined the Air Force, where he awaits career placement in its paramedic training program and hopes to be stationed in Japan, as he admires the Asian nation's medical philosophy and cutting-edge technology focus.

"My mother has always had health problems, and I felt frustrated that I couldn't help her," he said. "With a medical career, I feel I will be able to make a difference in people's lives." Meza will either be working in hospital emergency rooms or in other emergency medical assistance settings.

Amidst very small teacher/student ratios, every Academy instructor holds at least a bachelors' degree, while many have masters or PhDs. Students derive from public high



GRADUATE — Ramon Meza went to El Paso Academy after trying to make it on his own without a high school diploma.

school referrals, parent inquiries and interested students themselves. All students must pass an assessment test, sign a code of conduct with their parents if living at home, and wear uniforms.

From "back-to-basics" programs to "expeditionary learning," the Academy's curriculum allows students to work at their own pace, develop strong academic skills, learn individually or in small groups, have access to state-of-the-art technology and computer science and use educational software to enhance their learning.

"El Paso Academy flexes its muscles everyday to give students the best education, counseling and social work," said Reid. "They're never more than a few feet away from a teacher, counselor, social worker, therapist or staff worker who cares about them with genuine, loving, supportive, personal attention."

Charter schools like the Academy, have become Texas' answer to voucher programs, which the state doesn't utilize. They were created in the early 1990s and date in Texas to 1995. El Paso Academy opened its doors in 2000 as a strong alternative for students who have difficulty finding their way in traditional learning environments.

Funded by the Texas Education Agency like all public schools, they receive about 60 percent of the per student fees received by traditional high schools, an average per-pupil rate of \$4507 vs. \$7000. Since charters don't receive facility funding or property tax money, they must rely on grants and community donations to operate. El Paso's nine school districts are all operated on funds derived from individual district property taxes.

"Anyone who is struggling in traditional high schools, or who has dropped out or is even thinking about it, should call El Paso Academy," said Meza, who said he was accepted within 48 hours after submitting his required inoculation records, current credit/grade reports and TAAS status. Students not living at home are required to also show proof of county residency via a utility bill or similar affidavit. "It really helped to turn my life around and gave me the foundation needed to start a new life for myself. The Academy was my life saver."

For more information about El Paso Academy or its admission requirements, call Katherine Reid at (915) 590-8589.

Garcia

From Page 1

Year" for Horizon City for the 2003 year. He received a Letter of Commendation from Horizon City Police Chief Tony Aguilar and then-Mayor Patricia Randleel and later received the Sheriff's Citation from El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego.

Now 31 years old, Ruben Garcia married his wife, Rachel, an elementary school teacher, soon after being hired by HCPD in July of 1999, and they have one child; a two year old boy named Ruben Jr.

A graduate of Socorro High School, class of 1990, Officer Garcia attended the El Paso Community College Police Academy, graduating in 1999. After graduating he accepted a position with the Clint Police Department as a reserve officer and began his training. When an opening presented itself in Horizon he immediately applied and was hired, as a part-time officer, on July 27, 1999. He worked his way through an extensive field training program and eventually was hired as a full-time officer. Currently he has less than five years of experience and has already received his "Intermediate Peace Officer" license from the state accreditation agency, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). This license usually takes six or more years to receive.

"His attendance is outstanding, as he is seemingly never ill," Sgt. Swenson said. "He is always willing to accept new responsibilities and volunteers for just about any assignment. His 'heart' is truly in the right place when he comes to work and his loyalty to the department and the badge has proven him a true asset for the entire law enforcement community."

Garcia is an avid weight lifter, enjoys keeping in shape and playing sports. He has been a volunteer firefighter, dispatcher and worked many other jobs prior to choosing law enforcement as his life long career.

"All in all, Officer Ruben Garcia is an outstanding officer with a lot ahead of him. He will prosper as a police officer and will always be an officer with integrity, pride and bravery," said Sgt. Swenson.

SPRINGTIME INVITATIONAL

**MARCH 27TH
ALL DAY EVENT
@ KIDD FIELD**

**COLLEGE TEAMS COMPETING:
UTEP
OKLAHOMA
TEXAS A&M
TEXAS TECH
NEW MEXICO**

**-HANKS, ANDRESS, AND SAN ELIZARIO HIGH SCHOOL
MEET FINALS THROUGHOUT THE DAY!!**



Track & Field

City of Socorro PUBLIC NOTICE

During the City Council Meeting of Thursday, February 19, 2004 the City of Socorro adopted the following ordinance(s):

- 1) Ordinance No. 240, authorizing the issuance of \$2,000,000 of City of Socorro, Texas Combination Tax and Museum Certificates of Obligation Series 2004.

Ordinance is too lengthy to publish. A copy of the ordinance is available at the Socorro City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd., Socorro Texas 79927, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The City of Socorro promotes Fair Housing/Affirmative Action and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against race, color, creed, or national origin.

*YOLANDA RODELA
Interim City Secretary*

WTCC: 03/18/04



HARDWARE — Priscilla and Gabriel Mendoza display their trophies.

Gifted siblings win again at Sun Country Regional Science Fair

HORIZON CITY — Siblings Gabriel and Priscilla Mendoza of Horizon City, each won a Gold Sweepstakes Award at the Sun Country Regional Science Fair competition on Feb. 28, automatically qualifying to compete on the state, national and international level.

Priscilla is a junior at Americas High School, winning first and Sweepstakes in the Socorro ISD district fair, and the same honors in the senior division at regional, garnering several special awards totaling \$1,000. She is a member of the SISD Math and Science Block, and one of the top 10 in her class. She is also 2004 District Wrestling Champion in District 5A in her weight class and is an advanced senior student in Kung Fu.

Her younger brother, Gabriel, is a freshman at Americas. He earned first place and Sweepstakes in district before advancing to win in the junior division at regional, earning \$350 in special awards. Currently ranked number one out of his class of 856, he was on the Americas Junior Varsity Golf Team which won first place at the Chapin Invitational Golf Tournament, was recently selected All Star City League Basketball Guard, and won a silver medal in the 3000 meter run in Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship Meet. He is also an advanced senior student in Kung Fu.

Science Fair coordinators at Americas High are Sandra Blough and Bert Sherwood.

Canutillo and San Elizario school boards recognize student achievement

By Don Woodyard
Courier Staff Writer

EL PASO COUNTY — School boards in San Elizario and Canutillo approved textbook committee recommendations for the upcoming school year in their March meetings.

Recognition of student achievements highlighted other activity in the March 10 meeting of the San Elizario board of trustees.

Mike Lafferty, art instructor at San Elizario High School, reported on five students in the digital photography program who won honors at the recent countywide art competition sponsored by El Paso Community College. It was open to art students in all grades.

He said that normally only three entries are allowed per school, but an exception was made for San Elizario students because of the high quality of their work.

Gabriel Enriquez won second place overall for his work, "Red Sky at Night."

Other entries were from Jairo Valles; Benjamin Vasquez; Adriana River and Christina Penaflor.

In other action, the board:

- Approved three-year contracts for health plan services. The board had approved Access Administrators to be the district's health plan provider last July.

- Approved upgrades of job descriptions for positions in the Human Resources Department.

Introduced by Canutillo Superintendent Charles Hart, motivational speaker Roberto Ruiz challenged board members at their March 9 meeting.

In "Zero to Iron Man," Ruiz spoke of inspiring people to make lasting changes in their lives. "An extraordinary life is developed by an extraordinary mindset," he said. "All you need is within you."

He asked board members why they are on the board. He got back answers of wanting to serve kids and giving back to the community.

"What challenges do you want to face? Challenges," he added, "are gifts that allow you to grow. It is who we become in the process of life that fulfills you," he pointed out.

Hart said he wanted this program to be presented to seniors.

The board also approved a proposed refinancing plan to save the district approximately \$80,000 over a four-year period through the restructuring of a \$2.5 million 1993 bond issue. Savings would come from refinancing at a lower rate of interest on the bond market.

The board accepted a \$500 check from First Southwest Company for the district's agricultural-science program.

Representatives from Dimensions Architects and Baner Construction reported that construction of the new high school is on schedule.

Youngsters have no limits when it comes to Transmountain run

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — A group of East County elementary students, members of the No Limits Track Club, made an outstanding showing at the recent 2004 Transmountain Challenge, taking first place in the elementary school relay team division.

Sarah Shepherd, Shannon Luevano, Amilcar "Shorty" Galindo, Aaron Zoff and Eduardo Calderon completed the "heartbreaker" ahead of many older runners and were complimented on their poise and stamina.

The group participates in the Jr. Olympics track and field, coached by Dick Harshberger.



"Well sir, to be honest, our research has shown that our target audience is afraid of newspapers."

Briefs

From Page 1

last month and it has neutered 182 animals since Feb. 14. For information contact the El Paso City/County Health District.

- Three Destination Imagination teams from Socorro ISD will be competing on the state level April 2-3 in Mesquite, Texas after advancing recently at the regional level. Teams from Slider Middle, O'Shea Keleher, and Helen Ball Elementary will advance. The Slider team won first place in regional. The DI challenge involves problem-solving for all ages encompassing teamwork and divergent thinking skills, some which take several months to solve and some which test a team's ability to create solutions within minutes.

- Eighteen Socorro ISD student musicians

were honored as "Outstanding Soloists" during the competition on March 6. The band, orchestra and vocal music students performed at Montwood High School.

- "The Code and the Challenge of Learning to Read it," a presentation by the producer of *Children of the Code*, a social-education project and PBS television documentary series, will be held 9-11:30 a.m., March 27, at Montwood High School. Parents, teachers of all grades, reading and language professionals, child psychologists and counselors, child advocates, literacy volunteers, historians of writing and technology, college students, and anyone interested in enriching their understanding of reading or learning will find the content relevant. Cost is \$30 general admission, \$15 for college students. This event is hosted by Socorro Independent School District and Montwood High School and is sponsored by El Paso Bridges Academy. To find out more, log on at <http://www.childrenofthecode.org/elpaso.htm>

- Carmen Perez, a local El Paso attorney, has been appointed as a director on the board of the State Bar of Texas, following a competitive selection process and the recommendation of the El Paso Bar Association, the Mexican American Bar Association, and the El Paso Women's Bar. Perez is slated to serve as one of two minority directors beginning April 16. She is Managing Partner for the law firm of Delgado Acosta Spencer Linebarger Heard & Perez, LLP, affiliated with the nationwide law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

- The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it is making \$325 million in loans and grants available to rural communities to strengthen distance learning and tele-medicine programs that serve rural America. "Bringing specialized health care and expanded educational programs to rural areas will save lives and improve the quality of health care for residents who live in more sparsely populated areas of the coun-

try," said Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development Gilbert Gonzalez. Tele-medicine technology makes it possible for doctors to examine and direct the treatment of patients without being physically present. Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, over \$100 million has been invested in local distance learning and tele-medicine programs, allowing 1,384 rural educational facilities to expand their access to modern telecommunications technology, and 658 health care institutions to develop technologies needed to enhance local medical care. Applications for \$15 million in grants must be submitted by April 30, 2004 and will be scored and awarded on a competitive basis. Applications for the grant/loan combinations and loans can be submitted throughout the fiscal year and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional information on the USDA Rural Development distance learning and tele-medicine program for 2004 is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



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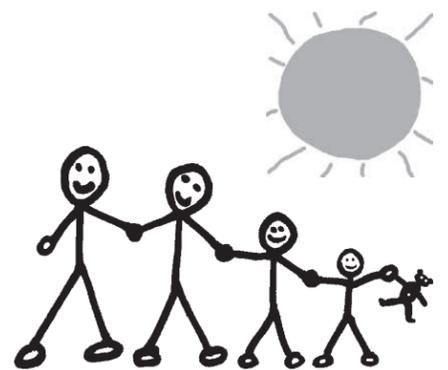
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'Dance' happy UTEP has decent shot at beating Maryland

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Over the last 12 years, El Pasoans have enjoyed the NCAA basketball Tournament. They've filled their brackets with giddy anticipation. But there was always something missing. Like that one single ingredient left out of the cake that makes it acceptable but not delicious.

And that one missing ingredient was the UTEP Miners.

With March Madness beginning this week, El Pasoans not only have their cake, but they will be taking a big bite out of it, too.

El Pasoans are feeling like important customers seated at a five-star gourmet restaurant. The main course is a chance to cheer for their beloved Miners in the NCAA Tournament after years of settling for chopped liver.

And today's feast will feature the UTEP Miners and the Maryland Terrapins.

UTEP's PR department has been implying all season that the Miners' time is now. And for once they got it right. All the Miners asked for was a chance to dance, and they got it.

I truly think the Miners have an excellent chance to beat Maryland in Denver. The Terrapins aren't the same team that won the national championship a couple years ago. They are good, but they are beatable and I believe UTEP will take them by surprise.

But win or lose, this has been a season that will live inside of us for a long time.

What a season it has been. This is a season that teenagers around the city will eventually tell their grandkids about. They'll talk about a team that was considered among the worst in the entire nation one year, and then became champions the next.

It's a year that reminds us 30- and 40-some- things about the Sweet 16 season of a dozen years ago and a season that reminds the older among us of the incredible 1966 NCAA championship season.

From the time UTEP broke the winning streak of the Harlem Globetrotters just before the start of the regular season, one could tell that this was no ordinary team. This team isn't the tallest or the most gifted physically. But no team in the United States, none, has more heart or works harder.

And the main reason behind all the happi-

ness in El Paso can be summed up in just two words: Billy Gillispie.

In what has to be one of the most amazing stats of the season — after a humiliating 6-24 record a year ago, it's taken less than a full season for Billy Gillispie to come all the way back. After the Miners' 87-75 win over Boise State in the WAC semis, Gillispie had evened his overall regular season record at 30-30.

As far as the NCAA opener against Maryland, nobody nationally gives the Miners a chance to win this one. Everyone is talking about the matchup of Syracuse and Maryland in the second round.

The only time UTEP is mentioned on the national sports talk shows is to question whether they should have made it to the tournament at all.

Maryland is talented but young, very young. Of the 12 players on the roster, four are sophomores and five are freshmen. The Terps may have only one senior on the team, but they are playing their best basketball of the season right now.

UTEP will have to slow the extremely hot tandem of John Gilchrist and Jamar Smith. Gilchrist, a 6-3 guard, leads the team in scor-

ing at 15.2 per game. Smith, a 6-9 forward/center, is averaging 12.5 points per game and 9.8 rebounds per contest.

And the two were especially hot in the ACC Tournament. In the last two games against North Carolina St. and Duke, Gilchrist averaged 28 points and 6.5 assists while Smith averaged 24 points and 9.5 boards.

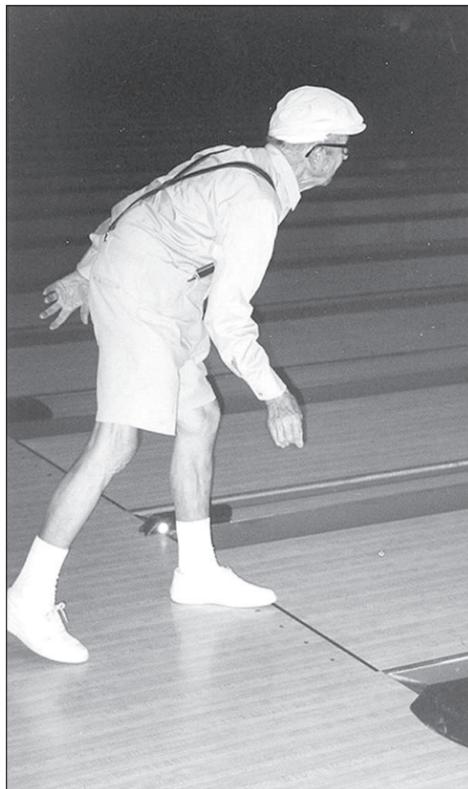
The key for the Miners is to stay out of foul trouble and play the same kind of defense they've played all season.

While the Miners play great team basketball averaging 16.5 assists and just 13.9 turnovers, Maryland tends to be out of control at times averaging 14 assists and 15.2 turnovers.

If UTEP can keep its composure, they may be able to force the Terps to lose theirs.

And think of this, for those who think the Miners are just happy to get to the "dance," they forget that it is Maryland that rallied late in the season. They are thankful for just getting in because it was doubtful a couple weeks ago.

Win or lose, the 2003-04 Miners will go down in history as one of the most beloved teams in this part of the country, and who knows, the whole nation could take notice by the time this weekend is over.



90-year-old bowler Albert Kind from 2003.

Young at heart

El Paso area seniors gear up for 2004 Senior Games

By Suzanne Michaels
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY — An anticipated 300 seniors are fine tuning their mental and physical skills to participate in this year's Senior Games and Senior Fun Day. The month-long Games are sponsored by the El Paso City Parks and Recreation Department and Sierra Providence Health Network, with the goal of encouraging and promoting long, healthy, enjoyable lives.

"The Senior Games include individual and team competitions in both the physical and intellectual arenas... so there's really something for everyone age 50 and over!" says Margie Davis, El Paso Senior Games Coor-

dinator.

This is the 22nd year for the El Paso Senior Games, which offer competition in bowling, cycling, racewalking, basketball, swimming, track and field, in-line hockey, horseshoes, washers, billiards, dance, table tennis, golf, volleyball, spelling, short story and poetry writing.

The activities kick off with the April 3 Senior Fun Day and end with the Hall of Fame Banquet on April 27. Local winners go on to compete in the 2004 Texas State Senior Games in Temple, Texas.

Senior Game registration packets are available now at Memorial Park Senior Center, 1800 Byron, or by mail. Call Julie Belcher at 562-4268 or Margie Davis at 581-9525 to make a request.



2003 discus competitor Bufe Morrison.

King Super Crossword

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| TRIPLETS | 66 Sticky stuff | 123 Bear | 44 Greek vowels | 94 Kind of curtain |
| ACROSS | 67 Tint | 124 Bear | 46 Computer abbr. | 95 Wrote |
| 1 Press | 68 Broad st. | | 47 Vast quantities | 97 Priest or rabbi |
| 6 Press | 69 Fairy queen | DOWN | 49 Nero Wolfe's hobby | 99 "Weak" ('88 hit) |
| 11 Press | 70 Creative work | 1 Arroyo or Hingis | 51 Apportion | 101 Shakespearean |
| 16 Ramis or Robbins | 72 Terra _ | 2 History division | 52 Take the honey and | sprite |
| 17 Immature insect | 74 "What _ boy am I!" | 3 Speck | run | 103 Singer Payne |
| 18 _ than-thou | 76 Lowdown singer? | 4 _ France | 53 _ City, IA | 106 Celtic |
| 20 Dressed down | 77 Pop | 5 Cartoonist Charles | 54 " _ Sixteen" ('60 | 107 New York stadium |
| 21 Stage backdrop | 79 Pop | 6 Panache | song) | 108 Pyramid, for one |
| 22 Displayed | 81 Pop | 7 Cole or Coleman | 56 Destruction | 109 Put the metal to the |
| 24 TV's "The - Patrol" | 83 Charged atoms | 8 Weimaraner's | 57 Tarzan, for one | metal |
| 25 Rock's _ & the Jun- | 84 Musical movement | warning | 58 It makes rye high | 110 "Understood!" |
| iors | 86 Sheep's shaker | 9 Ellipse | 59 Freud topic | 113 Onassis' nickname |
| 27 Triangular sail | 87 Bar | 10 Out-of-this-world | 61 Pro _ (for now) | 115 1002, to Tiberius |
| 29 _ later date | 89 Bar | org. | 63 Crone | 117 Augsburg article |
| 30 Gung-ho | 91 Bar | 11 Joyful | 65 "Nova" network | 118 Calendar abbr. |
| 32 Cassowary kin | 94 Move swiftly | 12 Fido's friend | 71 Tap | |
| 33 Muff | 95 Hammer part | 13 Golfer Dutra | 72 Baptism site | |
| 34 Starting at | 96 Campus grp. | 14 Place before place | 73 Descending, to | |
| 35 Salami city | 98 Chou _ | 15 Yvonne of "The | Donne | |
| 37 Bouillabaisse or | 100 Artist Benjamin | Munsters" | 74 Calculating reptile? | |
| burgoo | 101 Pres. candidate of | 16 Flung | 75 Olive _ | |
| 40 "An apple _ ..." | 1952 | 19 Update a factory | 76 Fit in | |
| 42 Deck type | 102 Wee one | 20 Improve oneself, in | 78 Plunder | |
| 43 Reel | 104 TV's "The _ Show" | a way | 80 "Ask _ Girl" ('59 | |
| 45 Reel | 105 Parker of football | 23 Clammy | film) | |
| 47 Reel | 106 Vintner Gallo | 26 Tavern staples | 82 Annoy | |
| 48 Choir member | 109 _ blade | 28 Glum drop? | 84 Actress Charlotte | |
| 50 "Don't Be _" ('56 hit) | 111 Compass pt. | 31 Contribute | 85 Granada gold | |
| 51 Have in mind | 112 "Vostok I" passen- | 34 Covers | 87 North Pole sight | |
| 52 Sound | ger | 36 Bill of Rights grp. | 88 Bouquet | |
| 55 Sound | 114 Nest and burrow | 38 Catchall abbr. | 89 _ majesty | |
| 56 Sound | 116 Lamb, e.g. | 39 City districts | 90 Footfall | |
| 59 Nobelist Wiesel | 119 Indian Zoroastrian | 40 "Secret _ Man" ('66 | 92 " _ Watched Trains" | |
| 60 Dundee denizens | 120 Boxer Griffith | song) | ('66 film) | |
| 62 TV's " _ Incredible!" | 121 Perfect examples | 41 Singer Shannon | 93 Kirstie Alley's birth- | |
| 64 Trickle | 122 Bear | 42 Autumn birthstone | place | |

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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



Beware the dead sexy rival

By Don Flood

A French woman recently married her dead boyfriend, in a ceremony that required the French president's approval.

I don't want to make any disparaging remarks about French men — OK, yes I do — but I couldn't help wondering if this is some indication of their general manliness.

I mean, if a dead guy can land a French girl, just imagine the chances for a live, red-blooded American.

But then I saw one of those deadly polls: What Women Want Most In a Man — where women were asked to list the top three attributes they seek in a man.

The No. 1 attribute was being faithful, chosen by 54 percent of the women.

Let's face it, Mr. Dead Guy looks pretty good in this category.

You could be as faithful as a dog, but Mr. Dead Guy wouldn't so much as turn his head if Janet Jackson were to walk by stark naked. (Which could very easily happen.)

No. 2 — Respect the other person's independence, 40 percent. Here's more trouble.

You won't find Mr. Dead Guy being too clingy or controlling. His wife wants a night out with the girls? No problem, he'll sit home and watch television — and the television doesn't even have to be on!

No. 3 — Ability to listen, 35 percent. Admit it guys, you don't stand a chance on this one.

You can actually try listening for a while (good luck!). You can zone out and nod your head occasionally (a better strategy). You can even try replaying in your mind, pitch by pitch, the sixth game of the 1975 World Series.

It doesn't matter! You're dead meat. Or perhaps I should say "live meat," because the dead guy's going to win this one hands down.

No. 4 is where live men should have an advantage: physical attractiveness.

The problem is that this category was chosen by only 13 percent of the women.

Also, you might not measure up as well as you think.

Packed on a few pounds since college? Not Mr. Dead Guy. He's as lean as they come.

Dress him up in a suit and he'll look great.

And here's where Mr. Dead Guy has the edge: She'll be able to dress him however she wants.

No more worrying if her doofus husband's pants are going to match his shirt or if his tie is going to match either his shirt or his pants.

Heck, the dead guy won't mind dressing in a tux every day.

Finally, there's No. 5, which is where women rank a man's abilities as a lover.

Now you're a studly guy. You figure you're a hotter tamale than any dead guy — at least most of them.

But here's the thing. Only 6 percent of the women picked that among their top three attributes.

So even if you are the Last of the Red Hot Lovers — which isn't exactly what your past girlfriends indicate on their Web sites — it may not be enough to keep your wife happy.

So don't blow it off if you see your wife spending what seems to be unusual amount of time with her new dead "friend."

He may be a lady-killer.

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LEGAL

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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 - ICCDMI5Z3GBI34387, 1986 Chevy Astro, brown, no license plates VIN - IB7GRI4X4JS620809, 1998 Dodge Dakota, gold, license 5MCC64

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New law regulating electricians and electrical regulations getting underway

EL PASO COUNTY — A new electrician's license was created by House Bill 1487, enacted by the 78th Texas Legislature which will require all electricians working in Texas to be licensed.

Beginning Sept. 1, 2004, Texas will institute its first statewide licensing program for electricians. The new program creates uniform minimum qualifications for all electricians in Texas and it also requires electricians to pass a state-approved exam to earn a license that will authorize them to work anywhere in the state. Currently, electricians may be required to pass exams in any or all of the municipalities in which they operate, however, unincorporated areas currently have no license requirements for electricians.

The law also provides for a three-month grandfathering period which began March 1. Until June 1 applicants can apply for a license without passing an exam if they can satisfy requirements established by HB 1487. After

the grandfathering period ends, all applicants will need to present proof of having passed a TDLR-approved exam, which evaluates their occupational knowledge.

The new program also will establish statewide electrical code requirements to make sure the electrical systems in new homes and businesses meet safety requirements.



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Social Security Q&A By Ray Vigil

Q: My brother recently died. He has twin daughters, age 20, both in college. Their mother said that the local Social Security office told her the daughters were not eligible for Social Security survivor benefits on their father's earnings record. But when we were younger, both my brother and I got Social Security benefits while in college after our father died. Was my sister-in-law misinformed?

A: No, she was given accurate information.

We used to pay benefits to the children of a worker who died until the children turned 22, as long as they were in college. But Congress eliminated these so-called "student benefits" many years ago. Today, surviving children collect benefits only until they turn 18, or possibly until age 19 if they are still in high school.

Q: My husband and I just attended a retirement seminar at the sheriff's department where he works. He does not pay into Social Security. On the

other hand, I have worked all my life at jobs where I paid into Social Security. A speaker from the Social Security Administration told us that because of something called the Government Pension Offset, my husband's county pension will prevent me from collecting my Social Security pension. How can this be?

A: You probably misunderstood what the speaker was saying. The Government Pension Offset affects your husband's eligibility for any spousal benefits on your record. But it does not impact your eligibility for your own Social Security retirement ben-

efits. You will get the full Social Security retirement benefits you are due and your husband will get the county pension he is due. But if your husband applied for spouse's benefits on your Social Security earnings record, we must take two-thirds of his county pension and deduct that from any husband's or widower's benefits he is potentially due.

Q: I was reading an article about Social Security and I saw a reference to "OASI." What does that mean?

A: It stands for "old age and survivors insurance." That is a term you

will usually find only in the context of Social Security law, or sometimes with reference to Social Security finances. The two Social Security trust funds are formally known as the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

For more information visit your local Social 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
Mostly sunny and very warm.	Mostly clear.	Mostly sunny, warm and nice.	Warm with sunshine and patchy clouds.	Mostly sunny and warm.	Warm with sunshine.	Sunny and warm.	Warm with a good deal of sun.
▲ 82°	▼ 48°	▲ 78° ▼ 48°	▲ 80° ▼ 46°	▲ 82° ▼ 48°	▲ 80° ▼ 52°	▲ 80° ▼ 52°	▲ 82° ▼ 48°

UV INDEX Statistics for noon.

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

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

REAL FEEL TEMP™

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

Thursday	81°
Friday	73°
Saturday	73°
Sunday	74°
Monday	76°
Tuesday	83°
Wednesday	76°

AGRICULTURE

A large ridge of high pressure building across the Rockies will bring plenty of sunshine and warm conditions to the region Thursday. Temperatures will climb into the 80s during the afternoon, with excellent drying conditions. A full day of sunshine will overspread the region on Friday, with excellent drying conditions.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2004

TEXAS WEATHER

Anthony	81	48
Canutillo	81	49
Clint	81	48
E. Montana	82	48
Fabens	83	48
Horizon	82	49
San Elizario	80	46
Socorro	80	47
Tornillo	81	48
Vinton	81	49

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



TRAVELERS CITIES

City	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	74/42/s	73/43/s	74/43/s	75/42/s	73/44/s
Atlanta	66/46/pc	64/42/pc	66/44/pc	68/46/s	68/48/pc
Atlantic City	45/34/c	52/34/r	52/34/s	52/32/s	50/33/s
Austin/San Antonio	80/55/pc	73/52/pc	76/51/pc	74/50/pc	76/57/pc
Baltimore	48/34/c	50/34/r	54/36/s	54/34/s	48/35/s
Boston	36/28/c	34/30/sn	46/32/s	44/26/c	44/32/pc
Chicago	42/28/sn	50/34/pc	52/32/sh	42/26/pc	49/34/sh
Dallas/Ft. Worth	78/50/pc	70/48/pc	76/51/pc	74/53/pc	78/56/pc
Denver	67/34/s	72/38/s	75/40/s	76/40/pc	71/37/pc
Flagstaff	70/30/s	68/30/s	68/32/s	68/29/pc	66/31/s
Houston	80/60/pc	72/56/pc	74/52/pc	76/54/t	78/60/pc
Kansas City	54/29/pc	64/38/s	56/44/pc	62/44/pc	66/42/s
Las Vegas	88/60/s	88/58/s	86/58/s	86/60/s	84/60/s
Miami	79/68/pc	82/67/s	81/67/pc	80/67/pc	81/65/pc
Minneapolis	38/26/sf	44/30/pc	38/22/pc	46/26/pc	48/28/c
New Orleans	78/58/s	74/55/t	71/54/pc	73/55/s	74/58/s
New York City	43/30/c	42/35/sn	50/35/s	47/36/pc	49/37/pc
Philadelphia	44/34/c	46/34/r	50/36/s	48/32/s	47/37/s
Phoenix	90/60/s	92/62/s	92/64/s	90/62/s	90/61/s
Portland	56/43/r	60/45/c	64/44/c	61/43/r	58/41/r
San Francisco	68/51/s	68/52/s	67/52/pc	66/53/pc	66/45/pc
Seattle	52/43/r	54/42/sh	56/44/r	56/41/r	55/42/r
Tucson	90/54/s	90/54/s	89/56/s	91/56/s	91/56/s
Washington, DC	49/36/c	52/36/r	56/40/s	56/38/s	50/39/s

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

MORE POWER. BIGGER ENGINES. LOWER PRICES. WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?



Check out the 2004 Cub Cadet lineup.

With more power, better features and rugged construction, Cub Cadets are just plain gutsier than the rest. We build our tractors with only the best, heavy-duty features. You'll find engines ranging from 18.5 to 25 horsepower, easy-to-operate hydrostatic transmissions, heavy-duty welded steel frames and cast-iron front axles. Plus, most models feature shaft drive. And they're backed by a 5-year limited warranty.

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Model LT 1018
\$48/mo*
\$1,599**

- 18.5 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek™ ELS engine
- 42" QuickAttach™ deck
- Hydrostatic transmission



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\$65/mo*
\$2,599**

- 18 HP Briggs & Stratton V-Twin Vanguard™ engine
- 42" QuickAttach™ deck
- Heavy-duty shaft drive

ZERO

INTEREST FINANCING

until April 2005*



Model GT 3204
\$112/mo*
\$5,598**

- 23 HP Kohler engine
- 44" shaft-driven VersiDeck™
- Heavy-duty shaft drive

Knowledge. Selection. Financing. Delivery. Service. Visit the Cub Cadet dealer nearest you.

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*Deferred Interest until April 2005—Deferred Interest with Payments—Must request promotion at purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval by GE Capital Consumer Card Co. and applies to purchases of \$799 or more made between December 3, 2003, and May 31, 2004, on your Power Credit Card. No finance charge will be assessed on your promotional purchase balance if you pay the promotional purchase balance in full by the end of the promotional period. If you do not, periodic finance charges will be assessed on the promotional purchase balance from the date of purchase. Minimum monthly payments will be required on your promotional purchase balance during and after the promotional period. If minimum monthly payments are not paid when due, all special promotional terms may be terminated. Standard account terms apply to non-promotional purchases and, after the promotion ends, to your promotional purchases. Annual Percentage Rate for purchases is 18.99% (18.99% minimum) as of December 1, 2003, and may vary after that date. Minimum Finance Charge \$1. Variable APR of 22.99% as of 12/1/03 will apply if you fail to pay your minimum payment by your due date for two consecutive months. Financing promotion for residential customers only. **Product price—Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. ***Cub Cadet will provide an extended limited warranty for a period of 5 years or 500 hours, whichever occurs first, for the frame and pivoting cast-iron front axle on all new Cub Cadet Series 1000 tractors retailed after December 1, 2003. Cub Cadet will provide an extended limited warranty for a period of 5 years or 500 hours, whichever occurs first, for the frame, pivoting cast-iron front axle and drive shaft on all new Cub Cadet Series 2000, 2500, and 3000 tractors purchased after July 31, 1998. This additional limited warranty is available only to residential users and not commercial users. For complete details on 2-year and 5-year limited warranties see your Cub Cadet retailer. C11135-04-55080-1